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ENGRAVINGS IN THE PRESENT NUMBER:—THE WAR: THE TRAGEDY AT LYONS; BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS; GERMANS MAKING FASCINES; EXCITEMENT AT BELLEVILLE. THE FROST: FROST FAIR ON THE THAMES; AN ICE VELOCIPEDE; A SKATING STEEPLECHASE; SLEIGHING; AND A SKATE FOR LIFE. THE BANKERS' PANTOMIME.

ASSASSINATION OF AN OFFICER OF NATIONAL GUARDS BY RED REPUBLICANS AT LYONS.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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Topics of the Week.

1871.

WE have entered on a new year. The first day of the week was also the first day of another period of national and social history, and not unnaturally the topics of the week have arisen from looking back rather than from looking forward. To count up the wonderful incidents that have made the history of the past twelve months is in itself a process which compels us to pause in the effort to realise the tremendous importance even of occurrences which were often regarded lightly as the "news of the day" and dismissed as mere details of "the latest telegram."

The history of the great war between France and Germany, however, is but part of the history of Europe during the past eight months. In so short a time have the German forces entered France, carried its famous strongholds, invested its cities, vanquished or taken captive its armies, and laid siege to its splendid capital. Achievements that in the history of two centuries ago would have taken as many years to accomplish have been effected in a few weeks; and now a vast army with stores, ammunition, and a great encampment spreads around Paris, and has its head-quarters at the splendid summer palace of French Kings; while within the walls and wide fortifications of the gayest city in the world a desperately brave people suffer hunger but will not hear of yielding; and a rapidly-organised and ill-disciplined army has sworn to die for France rather than submit to national degradation as a consequence of the treachery of former rulers or the incompetence of the leaders who should have counted the cost of boasting.

THE GREAT SURPRISE OF THE WAR is that Paris is not yet taken. After a succession of rapid victories and almost unchecked advances, the belaguering armies have hesitated even to crack the outer shell of the nut that incloses the capital. It was only after long weeks of investment, and desperate attempts of the besieged army to break through the iron ring with which they are surrounded, that we heard of the outer fortress of Mount Avron being bombarded. Three several sorties, which, though they were ineffectual in breaking through the Prussian lines, yet inflicted damage on the enemy and were vigorous protests on the part of the besieged, were made little more than a week ago, and two positions were taken by the French. Such sorties are likely to be repeated often before Paris is taken, and that may yet be many weeks hence. It is still a question of provisions, rather than fortresses. Suppose it to be taken—What then? During the time that the German army has been lying before Paris, the world has been learning that the brutalities, the insufferable assumptions, and the barbarous domination which had been attributed to the troops were not all fables. More than that, the Nemesis of arrogant conquest and the lust of territorial war has begun to appear. Prussia is more arrogant than ever; her soldiers lose under discipline, her officers and commanders more insulting, her rulers more tyrannous and aggressive. She will have to look to it, or the boundary line of national safety will be passed, and with more to answer for than she has resources to meet. The Imperial crown offered to the rapacious chief who has been mounted on the German horse by the great riding-master Count von Bismarck will make even the Hohenzollern head ache.

WHAT WILL THE PRESENT WAR LEAVE, now it has ceased to be a war of defence, and has been prosecuted for the enforcement of uncompromising demands for territorial and perhaps even dynastic aggrandisement? Let Paris be taken, and France is still left desperately fighting—desperately, if unavailingly. What can Prussia do then that might not have been done when the threats and the attempts of Napoleon III. had been avenged after Sedan? An army of occupation may hold the demanded territories of Alsace and Lorraine as indemnities; but no German army can continue to hold all France. Even now there is danger in Germany because of the enormous levies that have been needed to carry out the programme of William and Bismarck, the programme of blood and fire—the programme that has ended in the Imperial dream being fatally realised. People and land alike are starving for want of the men who are lying in the battle-fields of France; and in France itself, peasants, women, children, peaceable citizens have been the victims for the misdeeds of those who were vanquished, killed, or taken prisoners in the first great battles of the war. A curse is going up daily against the ambition of Kings and Princes which spares neither the hopes of the peaceable nor the lives of the lowly in the cruel triumphal march to power. It is even too late for a real peace to be made without leaving the bitter rancour that this war has bred.

The present generation of Frenchmen—those even who protested against their own rulers, and were the first to plead for the staying of the conqueror's hand—cannot forget the cold-blooded measures of extermination, with the alternative of national dishonour, which were forced upon them. Unless under the effect of some great moral redemption that will go far towards making war itself cease from the earth, the antagonism between France and Germany has been reinstituted instead of being settled by mutual respect. Prussia especially will have to be prepared against a foe which she has done her worst to make relentless. This may be of little moment for some time to come; but when France rises, as rise she must, out of the depth of her past sufferings—and rises stronger, with purer government and more self-denying habits—the Imperial master of Germany, if he be still a Prussian, will have to look well to the threatening that will always lie westward, even when he has most need to watch his frontier on the north. France has been ready to take up half a dozen causes and to aid three or four nationalities at once. In the north, in the Danube in the east, her voice was heard and her power felt. In Italy her veto was influential, and her bayonets too long kept Rome for the Pope. In Spain her expressions of sympathy were listened for, her chance of interference watched narrowly. Now she is humbled, defeated, but not exterminated. Paris may be taken; Alsace and Lorraine snatched away; her fortresses dismantled; but France and the French people will not be taken out of the map of Europe; nor will their superb powers of compensation, their immense elasticity and national vigour, be for ever, or even for long, suppressed. Rome belongs to Italy. Amadeus I., son of Victor Emmanuel, is King of Spain—where Prim, the King-maker, lies dead, shot by an assassin's hand. Russia is ready to repudiate past treaties which fetter her in the eastward stride for which she has been long waiting. France will be able to concentrate her energies on the work of reorganisation. She will rise again rapidly, if not without checks and difficulties; and then the memory of this present war will be a menace to the foe who knew no mercy in victory, and had no sympathy with defeat.

It is a terrible prospect for the future, and it may be happily altered by a great change in the present aspect and even in the present divisions of Europe; but it is one which statesmen will have to regard in their calculations as to the part England will have to take in relation to foreign affairs. That we have really lost our influence in the councils of Europe has been disproved by the bitterness with which our neutrality has been censured by both the great nations now at war. That we can hold that neutrality with calmness may be indicated by the work that we and our American cousins and allies in the work of mercy are doing for the sick and wounded, in spite of Prussian sneers and contemptuous threatenings; in spite even of such aggressions as will have to be answered for to the present English Ministry, if it would retain its hold on public support. But we are unwilling to make even a demonstration that may seem to favour war; we are strong enough to wait. Sir Richard Grenville, in Mr. Kingsley's "Westward Ho!" answered the mad challenge of the Spanish Don who was his guest, while he was a prisoner, by slapping his rapier home in the sheath, and saying that his boasting antagonist must know Sir Richard Grenville well enough to know that he could without dishonour refuse duel to any man. That is England's real attitude in reference to arrogant gestures and small aggressions. We are like our national bulldog in one respect still. We don't care to bark till we are about to bite; but when we bite we hold.

Home News.

COURT.

THE QUEEN has kept the New-Year Festival at Osborne, as usual. On Sunday morning her Majesty and Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, attended Divine service at Osborne. The Rev. George Prothero officiated.

SLEIGHING was not enjoyed at Canada by Prince Arthur for naught. His Royal Highness has taken advantage of the snow to drive Prince Leopold out in the Royal sledge.

HER MAJESTY'S NEW-YEAR'S GIFTS.—On Saturday morning, for the first time since the death of the Prince Consort, her Majesty's new-year's gifts to the poor of parishes of St. John, New Windsor, Holy Trinity, and Clewer were distributed in the Riding School of the Royal mews at Windsor Castle. The day was extremely wintry, the streets being covered with snow. At the hour fixed for the presentation the bells of the town rang merrily as a signal to the recipients, 791 in number, who thronged the castle approaches, and filed in long lines through the St. Alban's-street gate of the Royal mews towards the Riding School. The floor of the Riding School is covered with matting, and in the centre, running nearly the whole length of the interior, was a long table covered with joints of beef, cut into different sizes, according to the family of the recipient, and decorated with sprigs of holly. At the east end of the Riding School is an apartment having a window opening into the interior, and thus forming a sort of gallery. It was from this room that the Queen, with the Prince Consort, surrounded by the children of the Royal family, was wont to witness, on each succeeding New-Year's Day, the distribution of her own Royal bounty to the poor who crowded the floor of the building. On Saturday the gallery was untenanted by Royalty. Among those present in the body of the school were the Rev. H. J. Ellison, Vicar of Windsor; the Rev. H. Hawtrey, Mr. Heale, clerk of the kitchen at Windsor Castle, on behalf of her Majesty the Queen, and a number of gentlemen connected with the Royal borough. The weight of beef displayed upon the table amounted to 9201 lb., its value being £106 14. It was of prime quality, the joints varying from 9lb. to 71b. Each of the recipients having been provided with a ticket through the agency of the local clergy, upon presenting it received a joint, and then quitted the Riding School, afterwards passing from the mews by the gate leading to Castle-hill. Those who came for the Queen's gifts were mostly women and children of the humbler classes, so many of whom a whole joint must have been a rarity. At the same time 1205 cwt. of the best coals, value £75 6s. 3d., were conveyed to the homes of the poor family, according to the number of its members, from 1 cwt. to 3 cwt. The total value of the beef thus given by her Majesty amounted to £182 0s. 3d.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.—The Prince of Wales brought his visit to Gunton Hall, the seat of Lord Suffield, to a close on Saturday, and returned to Sandringham House, via Norwich. At Norwich the Prince partook of luncheon, at the Norfolk County Club, and at 3.5 p.m. left by the ordinary train for Lynn. From Lynn his Royal Highness travelled by a special train to Wolferton, the station for Sandringham, which was reached a little after six p.m. Among the gentlemen who accompanied the Prince of Wales from Gunton was the Hon. T. De Grey, M.P., who received at Norwich the melancholy intelligence of the death of his father, Lord Walsingham. The Prince and Princess of Wales are about to give a second course at Sandringham House.

GOVERNMENT.

THE MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—It is authoritatively announced that Mr. Cubitt Beresford Portescue has accepted the Presidency of the Board of Trade, and that Mr. Hartington the Secretaryship for Ireland. The Chief Secretaryship, during the illness and temporary absence of Mr. Bright, was temporarily increased, will consist as before of fifteen members. The office of Postmaster-General will be held by a Minister without a seat in the Cabinet. Mr. Portescue nor the Marquis of Hartington will be required to seek re-election. The *Daily News* understands that Mr. Stansfeld will retain his present office of Secretary to the Treasury.

THE CONFERENCE.—We are authorised to state that the Conference on the Black Sea Question has been put off for a few days, in order to give time to M. Favre, and to possibly bringing instructions to some of the other Plenipotentiaries to arrive.

THE SCUTTLING OF BRITISH COLLIERS BY THE GERMANS.—The anticipation that the seizure of British colliers by the Prussians, at Dieppe, could not lead to any serious consequences is confirmed by the purport of the communications which have taken place on the subject. The remonstrances of our Government have been received in a spirit which warrants us in hoping that the question already has a fair way of settlement.

KEEPING OUR POWDER DRY.—Fifty additional workmen were engaged at the Woolwich Laboratory on Monday morning. The productive power of this department is now more than during the Crimean war.

WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE that the Government have made arrangements for the immediate production of a large number of breech-loading rifles of the Martini pattern. M. Martini, the Swiss inventor, will arrive next week, and will assist in preparing the machinery. It is claimed for the Martini breech-loader that the simplicity of its construction it can be readily manufactured, and that the work can be undertaken by private makers.

THE REVENUE TABLES for the quarter and the year ending Dec. 1 are published. The revenue for the quarter is £71,268,955, showing an increase of £553,581. There is a decrease in customs of £1,000,000 almost covered, however, by an increase of £1,000,000 in excise; showing that, while our trade has fallen off, the consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco has increased. There is also a decrease of £34,000 in income tax, £71,000 from property tax, and £50,000 from assessed taxes. On the other hand, there is an increase of £100,000 in stamps, £500,000 telegraph service, Crown lands, and miscellaneous, £476,581. The whole of the receipts on account of the National Debt amount to £6,977,296, which, £6,977,296 is interest on the permanent debt.

MR. CARDWELL ON OUR MILITARY POSITION.—The Right Hon. E. Cardwell and Mr. Vernon Harcourt, the members for Oxford, were present at the annual dinner held, on Monday evening, by the Ancient Order of Foresters in the Townhall of that city.

Mr. Cardwell, in responding to the toast

THE QUEEN has fixed Wednesday, March 29, as the day on which her Majesty proposes to open the Royal Albert Hall, at Kensington. The band of the 1st Life Guards played in the hall on Saturday afternoon, in order to test the building with a full band. Sir Michael Costa and other distinguished musical authorities were present. The results were as satisfactory as on previous trials.

e..... to the subject of our military organisation. ng with several of the charges of inefficiency laid e Administration, he proceeded :—"Next, you are ve great difficulty in obtaining recruits. Well, it ns, just before these events, we had determined to I had always been told it was not possible to do, and recruit without bounty. Now, recruiting without is of the greatest possible importance to the well- f the Army. The bounty was almost always spent in cy, the worst possible initiation for a young recruit e was just entering an honourable and gallant service hear). We substituted for it a promise of increased nduct pay (Hear, hear). Immediately upon that ne necessity of the addition to the Army of 20,000 men, are told that we have failed to obtain those recruits. he Inspector-General of recruiting tells me that in iod that is alluded to he has enlisted more than recruits, and on his own authority, and on hority of the medical officers, he gives me a haracter of the recruits he has enlisted. He has enlisted more than 20,000. I do not say that n 20,000 have been added to the numbers of the cause there is always a great drain upon it; but I at of those 20,000 two thirds are an addition to the and when we consider that this is done with- ty, it is really unexampled in the history of re- (Cheers). Now I come to the question of field guns. are making a considerable addition to our field . We are preparing what we believe to be a most field gun. Guns do not grow like mushrooms; but reparing them. We began this week to issue a bat- week of horse artillery, and we shall follow with a ch will, I believe, be the most powerful known to y in Europe (Cheers). Then there is an objection Oxford volunteers have not yet received their ading small arms. That depends entirely on the which they happen to stand upon the roll. But y, I do understand that the volunteers preferred, he time when everything was profoundly quiet, to r the time when the new arm (the Martini-Henry) ved out. But when the time arrived—when there ressure to receive the snider—we exerted ourselves hem the snider; and so, what is the result? We issue them at the rate of 1000 a day. We are them at the rate of 1000 a day; and, as by you will have 150,000, I do not think we are le with remissness on that account. And now we powder. Do not let anybody throw dust in your it powder (Laughter). Gentlemen, it is quite true have in the last two or three years provided less an we have consumed. We have been diminishing of powder. That is quite true. In my opinion we e quite right in doing so. Powder is not like the t is before us; it is not an article that improves by (Laughter). We have in store enough for the consumption of several years to come. We have much as we can conveniently store in our maga- , what is of much more importance, there are ntinually taking place in science which materially uestion of powder, and this applies specially to a vder which has recently been introduced for .. I think there have been three improvements d in powder for heavy guns during the short time had the honour to be in my office. It was only in that a particular kind, called pebble powder, was . We immediately adapted our machinery to the ble powder: but we have not gone on increasing of the older powder; and I think you will agree hould be bad stewards if we did. The late Lord to complain that in this country we were always tween parsimony and panic. I venture to say that mony we have nothing to do; but just economy right to expect from those who are charged with sts; and, as to panic, it is a word that ought not n in the vocabulary of Englishmen, but ought to er obliterated from the mind of this great and ountry. I shall not pursue this subject further, make this remark, that our arrangements cannot y following the example of any foreign country. ments must be made with due consideration to tances and our position. A country like Prussia, ended frontier and powerful neighbours, may igantic army. A great country like the United ding a high place in the scale of nations, but rom Europe by the broad Atlantic, may be satisfied h smaller army than ours. We have a foreign ser- r than that of any country in Europe. We have an sition; we have European relations; and our nts must be considered upon our own ground and w to what is necessary for the maintenance of our sts and our own honour (Cheers). But the first be—and however great preparation may be made— resource of this country will ever be the know- e support of the nation whenever its resources are Our history justifies us in applying to ourselves which Lord Macaulay so justly applied to the old :—

"The Romans in Rome's quarrel
Spared neither land nor gold,
Nor son nor wife, nor limb nor life,
In the brave days of old.
Then none were for a faction;
Then all were for the State:
Then the great man helped the poor,
And the poor man loved the great."

GREY AND RIPON ON THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

bution of prizes to the 7th West York (Ripon) eers, of which Lord Goderich is Captain and and Ripon honorary Colonel, took place at the n. on Satur... rey and Ripon said world is placed at ssons which these ntries—and to our military organisa- which had the . The first was larger masses uires of all any army uld be ...

manner, and its appliances brought up to meet the requirements of the age; for war comes so rapidly that if things now are not ready at the beginning they cannot be ready at all—nay, the loss of an hour may prove the loss of all. The first point, then, we have to learn is the value and necessity of a thoroughly trained army, trained in its officers, trained in its men. Many believed that when the great body of the French army surrendered at Sedan, with the Emperor at its head, the war was practically at an end. Yet we have seen how for many months since that time this mighty contest has been prolonged. We have seen what a power the determined will of a great and gallant people has withstood, even against masses of a well-disciplined and most completely victorious army. Perhaps this is due to the circumstance that the French have in Paris a vast fortified camp, which has enabled them to detain the chief portion of the Prussian army. This is a striking proof of what may be done by the determination and will of a patriotic people ready to sacrifice everything to maintain the honour of their country, and, if possible, bring back victory. Thus we must not think that war is at the present day an easy matter; it calls forth some of the very highest qualities of the human intellect; as, also, when it is conducted in a noble and civilised spirit, it calls forth some of the noblest feelings of the human heart. We must remember, too, that mere numbers can do very little—that science and obedience must be our aim; but even these will fail if we have not the protection of Him who is on high. At the conclusion of the noble Lord's speech, a desire was manifested for the formation of a second company, when his Lordship said there were many points to be considered previous to its formation. The national defences would undoubtedly be considered by Parliament, and any new corps must be prepared to accept any modification which public opinion might consider necessary for the improvement of the service.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR.

A "remonstrance" has been forwarded to Mr. Gladstone upon his declining to receive a deputation on the subject of the war between France and Germany. It expresses surprise and regret that official recognition continues to be accorded to the deposed Imperial dynasty, whilst it is still refused to that Government which for three months has been accepted by the French people. More immediately the English Government is urged to call upon that of Prussia to make peace on reasonable terms, not involving the seizure of French territory. Failing this, England should, without further delay, "join France in her resistance, and declare war against Prussia to aid France in resuming the position amongst the Western Powers to which she is rightly entitled, and which has been recognised by English statesmen in former settlements of Europe." The signatures to the "remonstrance" include those of Mr. Richard Congreve, Mr. Frederic Harrison, Mr. E. S. Beesly, Mr. H. Dix Hutton, Mr. George Odger, Mr. W. Allan, Mr. R. Applegarth, and Mr. George Potter.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

The monthly Sessions commenced on Monday. The calendar was heavier than usual, there being 109 prisoners in custody, besides bail cases. Charles Henry Hicks, 27, and Horace Marlow, 18, clerks in the service of Mr. Pulling, upholsterer, of High Holborn, were charged with stealing a piece of blue satin and other goods, the property of their master. Mr. Poland prosecuted, and Mr. Montague Williams defended Hicks. Marlow pleaded guilty, and was called as an approver. A statement, written by the youth at the Paddington police station, criminating Hicks as the instigator of the robberies, was put in as evidence. He declared that Hicks had from time to time induced him to rob his master and to pledge the proceeds. Hicks was sentenced to five years' penal servitude and Marlow to three months' hard labour.

IRELAND.

THE IRISH CHURCH ACT.—On the 1st inst. the union between the Churches of England and Ireland was dissolved by the Irish Church Act passed in July, 1869, as by "law established," on which day all the Church property vested in the Commissioners, all ecclesiastical law was abolished, and the right of Bishops to sit in the House of Lords ceased.

THE IRISH EDUCATION BILL will be based, it is said, upon the principle of denominational teaching; and it is even said in well informed quarters that the bill itself is now being draughted.

SIR WILLIAM MANSFIELD, Commander of the Forces in Ireland, left Dublin on Saturday evening for London, to confer with the Secretary of State for War relative to the defences of the country.

THE INAUGURAL PROCESSION OF LORD MAYOR BULFIN was carried out with great pomp, on Monday, in Dublin. The procession was composed of soldiers, mounted police, fire brigade, officers of the city, and several military bands. The Lord Mayor gave a grand banquet in the evening.

A MOVEMENT IS ON FOOT to provide a fund for the relief of the political prisoners. One of the prisoners, "Captain" Mackey, hesitates to accept the terms. In a letter to his wife he states that he could not, when he wrote, tell what answer he would give when the proposition should be formally made to him, but that, with the information which he then had, he was not at all certain that he would be released as soon as his friends may have been led to expect.

A MOVING BOG.—The moving bog near Castlerea continues to excite apprehension. There is fear that the town may be destroyed if the efforts to arrest the march of the bog are not successful. Numbers of labourers are employed to prevent such a catastrophe. A goodly area of the upland has been covered, and some houses and farms, with the crop of the late harvest, literally destroyed. The mass of peat and mud has spread over a course of some miles, covering, it is computed, between 2000 and 3000 acres.

THE LONG CATALOGUE OF RAILWAY DISASTERS must be added to, it is deplorable to say, in our New-Year's Number. On Saturday morning a passenger-train leaving Buxton at nine o'clock ran into an engine on its way from Levenshulme to the engine-shed at Longsight, the driver of the former having failed to observe the signals, ow... it is suggested, to the fog. The engi... of the Buxton train were kn... the first brake-van was ... are reported ...

The fourth, which might have been much more serious than it was, occurred on the Midland Railway at Barrow. For some reason which needs to be explained, a coal-train was allowed to leave a siding to proceed on its journey to Leicester, at a time when the 3.30 express from Manchester was already a quarter of an hour over due. The consequence was that almost as soon as the luggage-train had started, the express dashed literally through it, several of the waggons being thrown off the line and piled upon one another. The passenger engine was also thrown off and considerably damaged. Several persons were injured, but no serious casualty is reported. Near Leicester, on the same evening, the engine of an empty waggon train ran into a detached engine as it was passing over a crossing, and both were knocked over. A Leeds and Huddersfield passenger-train, on the London and North-Western railway, ran into a goods van and truck near Dewsbury on Saturday evening; and on Monday morning two goods-trains came into collision near the Thornhill Junction of the same line with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. In nearly every instance blame is imputed to the fog.

AN ALARMING COLLISION occurred at the Doncaster station of the Great Northern Railway, on Sunday morning. The tender of an engine employed in shunting had not been drawn clear of the main line when the mail-train came up and dashed into it. Fortunately the speed of the mail-train had been reduced, and the passengers escaped with a shaking. The driver and stoker of the shunting engine were seriously injured, and the two guards of the mail-train were also hurt. Several carriages were damaged, and two hours elapsed before the mail-train could leave the station.

A SIGNALMAN in the employment of the London and North-Western Railway Company has been charged before the Brentford justices with being drunk whilst on duty. During the hearing of the case it was stated that the defendant had been on duty fifteen hours for two consecutive days without relief. This statement seems to have astonished the chairman, who declared that if, under these circumstances, a fatal accident had occurred, he should have considered the directors guilty of manslaughter.

New Year's Gardening.

CONSERVATORY.

As there is necessarily a mixed collection of flowering plants in the structure, and derivable from various sources, some requiring a higher temperature than others, a little attention is necessary in their disposition and arrangement to make all comfortable. Camellias, heaths, epacrises, and other hard-wooded plants, should be arranged at the cool end. Forced bulbs and other plants, such as primulas, justicias, euphorbias, violets, lily of the valley, and poinsettias, should be kept at the warmest end. Water early in the day, to allow the dampness arising therefrom to be quite dried up before night. Keep the atmosphere dry, to prolong the beauty of the plants in bloom as long as possible. An average temperature of 50 deg. to 55 deg. by day and 45 deg. by night will meet all requirements.

FLOWER GARDEN.

Very little work of importance can be done in this department at this season. The lawn should be thoroughly swept and rolled, to keep a good firm bottom and give it a clean and cheerful appearance. Gravel walks may now be turned. This should be done without disturbing the rough stuff underneath, for that is not wanted on the surface. Walks when first made should always have a sufficient depth of fine gravel on the surface to admit of their being turned over every other year if required. By turning them in a proper and workmanlike manner they can be kept clean and in a good condition for a long time.

FRUIT GARDEN.

This is a good time for pruning apple and pear trees trained as espaliers and on walls. As the system is much the same in both cases, it will not be necessary to go through the details twice. It is entirely a matter of taste as to whether the fan or horizontal method of training is adopted; but for low walls and espaliers we prefer the latter, and for walls of an ordinary height nothing looks more elegant or natural, or is so favourable for the production of fine fruit, as fan training.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Take advantage of frosty weather to wheel manure and dressings of other materials on quarters from which the crops are cleared. This is an important matter, for it ruins walks to wheel upon them when they are wet and soft from the frost and rain. Turn over and mix together manure-heaps, to assist the decay of the various components, and prepare them for use without further trouble when the compost is wanted in the spring. Quick and all other hedges, with the exception of evergreens, should be cut and repaired without delay if necessary, so as to leave as little work of this kind as possible for succeeding weeks. Trenching and ridging up unoccupied quarters should be carried on with activity.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON went out to skate twice dur... week at Wilhelmshöhe, and it is reported ... agility in this hazardous exercise are ad- ... better skater than any of his companions ... Queen Augusta ... sleighs for his ... this kindly ... ssia acknow

THE SIEGE OF PARIS: GERMANS MAKING FASCINES.

PARIS BESIEGED: ALARM IN A BELLEVILLE INTERIOR AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BOMBARDMENT

The Franco-German War.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

THE FALL OF MONT AVRON

may be taken as a sign of the impending fate of Paris. One day's pounding sufficed to silence the batteries of this strong outwork to the east of the city. On Tuesday week the Germans opened fire. The French batteries looked chiefly south-west and east; they were consequently flanked by the German batteries at Raincy, which is almost due north of Mont Avron. On the Wednesday most of the French batteries were silenced; but the German bombardment was kept up, though with diminished vigour. During the following night the French must have evacuated the place, for on the Thursday morning no signs of life were discernible by the besiegers, and in the afternoon Prince George of Saxony sent forward a company of infantry, which took possession of the fort. They found that the guns had been carried off, and only some limbers had been left, with a quantity of ammunition and a few firelocks. A number of unburied dead lay about. Thus the place fell into the hands of the captors without that close hand-to-hand struggle which had been anticipated, and solely as the result of the cannonade. The German loss on the Tuesday, the only day on which the French replied with vigour, was twenty-three killed and wounded.

THE GERMAN SIEGE WORKS

are thus alluded to by Mr. Forbes, one of the "specials" of the *Daily News*, writing on Dec. 27:—"There can be no harm in roughly denoting the positions of the batteries, since the fire of to-day must have effectually revealed this much at least to the French. They begin on the south on the further side of the Marne, in close proximity to Noisy-le-Grand. There is a gap across the valley of Chelles, but they begin again where the height of Montfermeil pits out into the plain, and continue at intervals with a slight sweep, of which the convexity is towards Avron, further to the north than, and in front of, the village of Raincy. The French have been working hard on and around Avron ever since the 2nd—indeed before it. It is understood that in all, standing opposite our batteries, and in a position to reply to them, there are about sixty cannon, exclusive, of course, of those on the forts. These are chiefly, if not altogether, naval guns, of recent construction and considerable calibre—say 64-pounders. A few may be taken as heavier. I do not transgress the needful reticence when I state that the German batteries have, according to this computation, a numerical advantage, with possibly a parity as to weight of metal, gun for gun, and the advantage also of greater precision—a notable feature of German artillery *in se*, and backed by special shooting accuracy on the part of the gunners, who are not drawn from the field artillery, but have been specially imported from the fortresses, and are thoroughly conversant with the handling of these arms of precision. The design and construction of the batteries for the reception of the guns are the work of Colonel Oppermann, Chief of the Engineer Staff of the Maas Army, and Colonel Hoffmann, Chief of the Artillery Staff; and I am satisfied that the most experienced judges, if conversant with the positions, would admit that all that skill and knowledge, both practical and theoretical, can effect, has been bestowed on the duty. The siege train and the detailed conduct of the bombardment is, I believe, under the supervision of Colonel Barge, an officer of great experience in heavy artillery."

THE FIRST SHELLS IN PARIS.

The same correspondent, writing on the same day, adds:—"Yesterday and to-day Paris has had shell fire brought home to her. The rampageous men of Belleville, who remained at a discreet distance from the bursting shells on the banks of the Marne, have had these missiles exploding in their midst. Père-la-Chaise has had strange destructive visitors among its tombs. But it was chiefly into the arrondissement of La Villette—that congeries of goods stations, canal basins, slaughter-houses, and factories—that the batteries of Raincy sent their shells. In all, only a dozen were fired experimentally, and as a broad hint that whence these came there were lots more. The range is no great feat—only some 7000 paces. It must have been a new sensation to the artillerymen in Forts Aubervilliers and Romainville to listen to the whiz of shells in the air high over their heads, and to listen to the crash of the explosions in their rear."

BESIEGING IN EARNEST.

The active siege operations before Paris, and especially those on the north-east front, are assuming great importance. The silencing of the batteries of Avron and the capture of the hill were the reward of but a small portion of the activity of the besiegers. The special correspondent before referred to has described with great clearness the general condition of the siege operations taking place on this front. Before Avron was taken Fort Rosny, which lies between it and Paris, was attacked. Since then a line of permanent works—Fort Nogent, near the Marne, and the redoubt of Fontenoy, between it and Rosny, the redoubt De la Boissiere, between Rosny and Fort Noisy, and the redoubt of Montreuil, with Fort Noisy itself—have been cannonaded. A telegram from Versailles now informs us that the bombardment of "the enemy's position on the north-east front of Paris" was continued with success on Saturday and Sunday last; that the French had speedily evacuated their advanced positions on this side of the front; and that the guns of forts Nogent, Rosny, and Noisy were silent during the bombardment on Sunday.

THE FEELING IN PARIS.

The people of Paris, as one telegram after another informs us, are much disappointed that the sortie of the 21st has hitherto had no other result than to stimulate the enemy to new efforts, which have led to the capture of Fort Avron and of all the positions which the French had taken in their first onward movement. A meeting of Mayors of arrondissements, who, having been elected early in November, may be considered to form a representation of Paris, was held on Thursday week, when the prevailing dissatisfaction found expression. The wish of the meeting, however, was decidedly that military operations against the enemy should be carried on with all energy and activity.

Various accounts arrive from Paris, through Bordeaux and Le Mans. According to a telegram from the former city, an officer who left Paris by balloon, on Friday, with M. Ducoux, the late Prefect of Police, reports that it was announced in the capital that the Prussian attack on Mont Avron had been gloriously repulsed, with a loss to the enemy of from 7000 to 8000 killed. From Le Mans, however, it is reported, also as balloon news, that the fort was evacuated on Friday morning, under the personal superintendence of General Trochu. The population, it is said, were much grieved at the evacuation, but in nowise moved by the prospect of a bombardment. The energetic resolve of the Parisians is to hold out until the last, and to renew their efforts to break through the besiegers' lines.

MONT VALERIEN.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"As for General Trochu's supposed intention to retreat to Mont Valerien and some other forts, and there hold out even after the surrender of the city, the Germans will not permit him to carry it out. For the capitulation of Paris to be accepted it must include the city and the forts. Until the whole of the metropolis, with all its ramparts and redoubts, is given over, the inhabitants will be doomed to hunger. The task of reducing Mont Valérien will devolve upon the Parisians, not upon the Germans. It would cost the latter many lives; the former will only have to convince their Commander-in-Chief that France cannot be benefited by condemning Paris to starvation."

CONDITION OF PARIS.

By balloon post the *Echo's* Paris correspondent writes:—

"One Hundred and Third Day, Dec. 30.—The enemy's guns continue to bombard the three forts in the east, especially Rosny. The Prussian batteries have been strengthened by a few heavier cannon, some of the shells from which have fallen in Montreuil and near the ramparts. The French official reports say the forts continue uninjured, but the public is doubtful.

"The evacuation of the plateau of Avron has caused much discontent; some of the papers do not scruple to point out that Trochu ought to have made it more impregnable. It is true it is commanded by the forts, but that does not lessen the importance of the position both to the besieged and the besiegers, as a glance at the map will convince the most inexperienced eye. However, it is too late to cry over spilt milk, and by the time my letter reaches you more important matters will no doubt be on the *tapis*.

"The weather continues to be the great question of the day, as you can readily understand, with our lack of food and firing. To-day has been fine—too fine, in fact, for it gives little hope of a change. The glass still marks about 23 deg. Fahr., or 5 deg. centigrade below freezing; and the wood which is being cut down in the Bois de Boulogne and Vincennes is too damp to burn.

"About one quarter of the inhabitants are receiving relief in some shape or the other, so you can judge of the pull on the Republican exchequer and the amount of suffering that exists. Notwithstanding the misery prevalent everywhere, the wineshops are never empty. It is calculated that during the siege Paris has consumed twice her ordinary quantity of wines and spirits. I leave this fact for the explanation of your moral, social, and political economists."

KING WILLIAM AND COUNT WRANGEL.

The King of Prussia telegraphed to Field Marshal Count Wrangel on the occasion of his "diamond wedding":—

"Allow me to express to you and your wife my warmest and heartiest sympathy on to-day's celebration of your sixtieth marriage anniversary. It is a rare blessing which God had granted you, and, though many a sorrow cannot but have befallen you in so long a married life, gratitude to Providence is always the first emotion of the heart. May the Almighty continue to be gracious to you. I sincerely regret my inability to congratulate you personally on this rare festival. A patent as Gentleman of the Bedchamber for your son will, however, make up for my absence from your midst." The Count, in reply, expressed a hope that the "diamond pair" would be able to congratulate their beloved Monarch on his entry into Berlin as German Emperor.

SPEECH BY THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

At the New Year's reception, held on Sunday at the Palace of Versailles, at 11.30 a.m., the King of Prussia made the following speech:—

"Great events must have passed to unite us on such a day and at such a place. I owe it to your heroism and to your perseverance, as well as to the bravery of the troops, that we have achieved such a success. But we have not yet reached our goal. Important tasks are still before us ere we arrive at an honourable and lasting peace. Such a peace will be ensured if you continue to perform deeds such as have led us to this point. Then we can confidently look to the future for what God in His gracious will may decine for us."

LETTER FROM VICTOR HUGO.

The Guernsey *Star* has published a private letter, written by Victor Hugo, received by balloon post in Guernsey, on Dec. 28, by Madame Chenay, his sister-in-law, at Hauteville House, dated Paris, Dec. 18. Victor Hugo says:—"All is going on well here. Paris continues to be heroical. We are eating the flesh of horses, and we shall eat the flesh of rats. All Paris is on foot night and day for the fight. Charles and Victor (the poet's two sons) are cannoneers, as also Meurice and Vacquerie (two of their friends, Paris littérateurs). I shall at the first firing repair to the ramparts. We can hold out yet, at least, three months. France is rising, and Prussia will be thrust back. If I depart living from the siege of Paris I shall, in returning to Guernsey, recommence my work of the forty poor children, and I shall begin by giving them a little fête to compensate them for not having had their Christmas anniversary this year through the fault of the King of Prussia. We are all well. We embrace you tenderly, and hoping to see you soon. Courage, dear little sister.—VICTOR HUGO."

GAMBETTA ON THE SITUATION.

An imposing Republican demonstration took place, on New-Year's Day, in front of the Prefecture, Bordeaux, in support of the Government. Lord Lyons looked upon the scene from the windows of his hotel, which is just opposite.

M. Gambetta spoke from the balcony of the Prefecture in a loud voice, and was received with immense applause. This was especially the case when he characterised as an "imposture" the words "The Empire is Peace," which "the Man of December and of Sedan" uttered in this same city of Bordeaux some years since. He declared that the Republican Government derived its legitimacy from necessity and the general consent. When its task was accomplished, it would surrender its power—power that it had not assumed for its own purposes. Meanwhile, its motto would be "War *à outrance!*" and it would firmly maintain its authority.

These words were received with loud shouts of "Vive la République!"

FALL OF MEZIERES.

Mézières has been unable to resist the powerful siege of artillery of the Germans. The place, one of Vauban's strong fortresses, and ranked by the French as a *place de guerre* of the first class, appears to have surrendered on Sunday, and was occupied by the Prussians on Monday. Its possession greatly strengthens the hold of the Germans upon the Department of the Ardennes, and extends westward their line of occupation along the neutral frontier from Thionville, by Montmédy and Sedan, towards Rocroy, the next stronghold in the direction in which they are moving.

BATTLE NEAR VENDOME.

On Saturday a sharp engagement took place on the left bank of the Loir, near Vendome. As usual of late, the victory is claimed by the Prussians as well as the French. General Chanzy, in his despatch, says General Jouffroy repulsed the Germans, capturing an excellent position in front of Vendome and making 200 prisoners. The Versailles despatch says the 20th Division was attacked by a superior French force near Vendome, but repelled the attack and captured four guns.

THE NORTH OF FRANCE.

A Versailles telegram mentions that on Friday a German flying column, under Colonel Wittich, took five officers and 170 men at Scarbec, north of Arras, on the road to Bethune. There is a report from Lille that the Germans have summoned Abbeville to surrender, and that the town is preparing to defend itself with the aid of reinforcements.

On the western field of its operations the First Army is having encounters with the French sharper than any that have occurred since Rouen was taken. A French corps, under General Roy, advanced on Friday to La Bouille, twelve miles south-west of Rouen, on the left bank of the Seine, and captured the Prussian position there. The next day the Prussians retook this place, but were subsequently repulsed with considerable loss. Such at least is the unofficial account of the affair transmitted from Havre. An official German military report, however, states that on the 31st the party which was sent to effect the recapture partly routed the French, of the strength of a brigade, and partly forced them into the chateau of Robert Le Diable, which they stormed, killing many of the enemy and making one hundred prisoners. The Havre account states that the conduct of the Prussians was marked by gross treachery. The troops at Havre have received a new commander in General Peletingeas.

THE SINKING OF BRITISH SHIPS BY THE PRUSSIANS.

Thirty-nine of the crews of the seven British ships sunk in the Seine by the Prussians have arrived at the Sailors' Home, in Wellclose-square, where they have been ordered to remain by the Board of Trade pending official proceedings. Mr. William Mingay, mate of the Sylph, and the mate of the Alice, both of Sunderland, have made statements detailing the circumstances attending the seizure of their vessels. From their statements it would appear that a French gun-boat going up the Seine sighted a Prussian detachment advancing along the banks and fired into them, killing 150. This caused a certain commotion among the Prussians, and it was no doubt with a view to put a stop to the movements of the gun-boat in the river that the Prussians resolved to sacrifice the British ships.

HOW THE PRUSSIANS TOOK POSSESSION OF THE SYLPH

is described by Mr. Mingay as follows:—The Sylph was at Rouen on Saturday week, in the river, when a detachment of about thirty or forty Prussian soldiers, headed by an officer, boarded her from a steam-tug. The Sylph had discharged her cargo of coals and was taking in ballast. The men had, unfortunately for themselves, as it ultimately turned out, been paid. The Prussian officer addressed Captain Ramsdale, the owner of the vessel, and the mate, in a mixture of French and English. Striking his hand on the companion ladder, he said,

"Me must have your ship."

Captain Ramsdale, pointing to the flag, said,

"You shall not have my ship; it is an English ship."

The Prussian officer, whose men had at once proceeded to cut the ropes that tied her to her anchor, roared out,

"Me don't care if she is English, or French, or Dutch, or Norwegian; me want her to *couler* her in the river."

He repeated the French word *couler* (to sink) several times, and announced his intention to seize the brigantine, whether its captain would permit him or not. During this animated altercation the utmost confusion prevailed on board, the soldiers proceeding to knock holes in the bottom of the vessel. The captain cried out to the officer,

"If you want my ship, pay me the £2000 she's worth."

"Yes," said the officer, "I will."

He then produced a printed form, and, calling for pen and ink, pointed to a vacant place on it, and directed the captain to fill it in, which he did. The form seemed to be an order on the Prussian Government. During the time this paper was being filled up, the sailors were trying to save what they could of clothes and money, but without much success, for in less than ten minutes from the boarding of the vessel the sailors were hurried over the sides into a boat and cut adrift. A good deal of their clothing was left on board. The officer stepped on to the tug, leaving some soldiers in charge of the Sylph; these men hauled down the British flag (they had previously ordered the captain to do so, but he had refused), and they trampled on it, and wiped their feet on it, making remarks as they did so in German. They then towed her down the river. They did not sink her immediately, in fact—not till the next morning—but, getting drunk on the ship's stores, set her partially on fire.

Though the captain had received a paper promising him £2000 for his ship, the sailors had received no compensation for their losses. When they got on shore at Rouen they reported themselves to the British Consul, who went to the Prussian authorities and remonstrated. Through his exertions two omnibuses were procured, and the men were dispatched

EN ROUTE FOR DIEPPE.

When they got to Colbec, between twelve and one at night, they were stopped in the bitter cold, the snow lying thick on the ground, by a body of Prussian soldiers, who ordered them to get down. Presenting the points of their bayonets, and rudely vociferating, they directed the sailors to undo their bundles. The mate distinctly affirms that the Prussians took not only the men's tobacco, but part of their clothing and their money. He himself was robbed of several pounds' worth of clothes as well as his wages. The other men were likewise pillaged. One unfortunate sailor, while being compelled to lower down some luggage from the top of the vehicle, for the Prussians to overhaul, slipped, and, falling to the ground, got concussion of the brain. He had to be left behind at Colbec. Ultimately they were allowed to resume their journey. When they arrived at Dieppe the Consul and the English Chaplain received them very kindly, and gave them one shilling each to buy their dinners with at Newhaven. Having been deprived by the Prussians of nearly everything they possessed, the poor men had nothing to eat from the time they arrived at Newhaven until their arrival in London. Thus they lost not only their employment, but all their wages and their clothes.

THE OTHER SCUTTLED SHIPS.

The mate of the Alice—which is one of the six ships sunk on Dec. 21—states that the vessels were seized in the most peremptory manner, and the crews put ashore, where they had to remain exposed to the bitter cold and to the rain, which wetted them through, for eleven or twelve hours. These vessels were sunk at once; but, as they were not sufficient to block the passage of the river entirely to the satisfaction of the Prussians, the Sylph was subsequently seized, and after her the Paragon.

THE LYONS ASSASSINATION

adds another to the long list of tragedies which have marked the course of the war. We have now details of the crime, depicted on our front page. It appears to be certain that the tragedy resulted from weakness and indecision on the part of the magistrates in allowing the Red minority to remain virtual masters of the town and to keep the red flag flying at the Hôtel de Ville.

The rising originated in a revolutionary meeting held one evening last month in the salle Valentina, Lyons. At nine o'clock next morning the same men and women assembled, and there was at first little prospect of anything being done. The women, however, mounted the tribune, and urged the men on, calling them cowards. So matters went on for an hour or two, the people mutually exciting each other, until at last men with arms appeared in the salle, and the women went out and dressed themselves in black, and returned with a red flag muffled in crape. The authorities must by this time have learnt what was going on, but, although a sergeant and four gendarmes would have put a stop to it, they took no steps whatever. The people now sallied out, and began to ring the tocsin, and for an hour marched about through the streets, joined in their course by rioters from other parts of the town. Still the authorities did nothing. At twelve o'clock M. Arnaud, chief of the twelfth battalion of the National Guard, happened to pass by the Salle Valentina. The National Guards who were standing there called upon him to come in and join them. He refused to do so, when they rushed upon him, seized him, dragged him to a wall a short distance off, made him kneel down, and shot him through the head. M. Arnaud is known as a prominent Republican. The attempt at insurrection shortly afterwards died a natural death. It is to be hoped that M. Gambetta will see that this tragedy is the signal for a prompt and complete suppression of the little body of Reds who have kept Lyons in terror for the last three months.

GENERAL CHANZY'S CAREER.

A correspondent at Le Mans gives an interesting account of the career of General Chanzy. The General is about seventy years of age, and was born in the department of Ardennes. At sixteen years of age he ran away from home and enlisted as a cabin-boy on board a man-of-war. After a year of this hard life he was discovered, and was sent to St. Cyr, out of which he came with the greatest honours, and was appointed as sub-lieutenant to a regiment of Zouaves. From that time to the breaking out of the Italian war, in 1859, he remained in Algeria, which he left with the grade of chef de bataillon of the 23rd Regiment of the Line. For his brilliant conduct during the whole campaign, and especially at Solferino (where he was noted in the order of the day), he was promoted to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the 74th. In 1864 he obtained the Colonelcy of the 48th, and commanded the subdivision of Sidibil-Albis, and became General in 1868, displaying whilst there great administrative abilities. He also during this year accompanied the expedition to the south under General Wimpffen, and principally contributed towards its success. Named General of Division on his arrival from Algeria, he took a very important part in the battle at Coulmiers. His connection with subsequent events on the Loire is well known.

AN IRISH RECRUIT FOR THE FRENCH ARMY.

A young gentleman of Irish family, lately a cadet at Woolwich, with not long to wait for his commission, took it into his head that it was a pity to lose so much good fighting as he lately was daily hearing of. So, one night he was wanted at tattoo, and not to be found. Nor was he heard of for some days, and then only because he wrote of his having departed to join General d'Aurelle. Since then various accounts have been received of and from him. He not only reached the Army of the Loire, but succeeded in proving his military education to the satisfaction of Gambetta's bureau; and, aided possibly by his Hibernian extraction, was forthwith gazetted as a captain of artillery. One can well imagine that a young man with the sort of energy which carried the hero of this story so far in search of service may prove of value to his new masters in his new field of artillery study.

ASSASSINATION OF MARSHAL PRIM AND ARRIVAL OF KING AMADEUS IN SPAIN.

We have news of a terrible tragedy in Spain. Six miscreants fired at Marshal Prim and wounded him in the shoulder, on Wednesday of week, [illegible] he was proceeding to the Cortes in his carriage. [illegible] same day Amadeus, of Savoy, Duke of Aosta, and King Elect of Spain, embarked at Spezzia bound to his kingdom. On the following Friday the King landed at Carthagena; on the evening of that same day Prim expired. Sunday had been appointed for the King's solemn entry into his capital; but the trophies and triumphal arches by which he was to be greeted were taken down. The city was in mourning for Prim's funeral, and the King's entrance had to be put off to a less inauspicious day. The greatest indignation is expressed in Madrid at the crime by which Spain is deprived of one of its bravest soldiers and leaders. The Cortes on Saturday declared Marshal Prim to have deserved well of his country.

THE DETAILS OF THE SHOOTING

are published under date of the 28th ult. The correspondent of the *Times* says:—

"It appears that after the Session of the Cortes (on the 27th), which ended about half-past seven, General Prim entered his carriage with his two aides-de-camp, Nandin and Morja, and drove off through the Calle Turcos, which is exceedingly narrow, towards his house. At the end of the Calle Turcos, where it emerges into the Calle Alcala, the passage was obstructed by two cabs. Prim's coachman was obliged to stop before the obstruction, which appeared casual, but was not; for the next moment some men got out of both cabs and fired into each window of the carriage, and then made off. The General and one of his aides-de-camp were severely wounded. Up to this moment the doctors have extracted seven balls from the General's shoulder, and it is thought there are more. They have also amputated the first joint of one of the fingers of the right hand, and will probably have to do the same to the index finger of the same hand. He behaved with the greatest coolness. By whipping his horses furiously the coachman managed to make a way by upsetting one of the cabs, and in less than two minutes they reached the Ministry of War, the General's residence. The General mounted the staircase with great sangfroid, supporting himself by holding the balustrades with his wounded right hand, leaving spots of blood behind him as he went. On meeting the Condesa de Reus, he remarked quietly to her that he was slightly wounded. Her anxiety may be imagined, for she is a most devoted wife, and has constant presentiments of some fatality to her husband.

"The Aide-de-Camp Nandin had his right hand completely destroyed, yet, hiding his injury in his handkerchief, he did not tell any one or leave the General till he saw him in bed, with the Countess by his side. He then went into another apartment, and it was only when he was asked by an officer there whether he was hurt that he exposed his hand. It has been amputated to-day. Such are all the particulars I can send you by this post. The popular indignation is intense.

"The Regent, who lives in the same street (Alcala), was the first to arrive at the bedside of the wounded General. He was quickly followed by all the Ministers, foreign Ambassadors, and public men of all parties. A Council was instantly held, at which many of the leading Cortes Deputies were present, under the presidency of the Regent, to consider what was best to be done under the fact that the Duke of Aosta had already left for Cartagena, and the certainty that General Prim (who was to have gone down to meet him) would be unable to attend to public business for some time. All eyes turned to Topete, and pointed him out as the most suitable person to assume the Presidency of the Council, and to go down and receive the King. Naturally, Topete hesitated, especially after the position he felt it his duty to assume last week. He said he would unconditionally lend his services to meet any danger, but he felt scruples of dignity about going to receive the King, as it might be construed into want of consistency with the cause he had always advocated. Under the urgency of the moment, however, the noble-hearted sailor seemed puzzled how to act. He wished to be true to his compromises, and yet to do whatever he could for the safety of the country. Finally, he said he would be governed by the advice of those of his friends who were present, who like himself had consistently upheld the claims of the Duke of Montpensier. With a patriotism worthy of all praise, Rios Rosas said he thought he ought to accede to the unanimous wish. Others of the same party spoke in the same sense, and the result was that Topete said he was at the disposition of his companions to do whatever they wished. He has accepted the Presidency of the Council, the Ministry of War, and the Ministry of State. Sagasta takes Gobernacion, and Ayala Ultramar; Montero Rios, Beranger, and Moret retain Justice, Marine, and Finance respectively.

"Mr. Layard was the first of the Diplomatic Corps to arrive at the residence of General Prim. General Sickles followed him shortly after, and stayed till after one o'clock next morning."

KING VICTOR EMMANUEL made his public entry into Rome on Saturday. His Majesty met with a very warm reception, and the city was illuminated.

A RAILWAY GUARD FROZEN TO DEATH.—On New-Year's morning, on the arrival of the goods-train from Wellingborough at Kettering Junction, near Leicester, the guard, Isaac Bosworth, was found in his brake-van dead. He is supposed to have perished from the severe weather.

TWINS THREE TIMES IN SUCCESSION.—The wife of an agricultural labourer, named Lamb, residing in the parish of Hasberton, near Torpoint, gave birth, on Christmas Day, to twins, for the third time in succession. The poor woman is in very delicate health, and has had ten children, eight of whom are living.

NEW DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL COURT.—On the 1st inst. an Act took effect to establish a new Divorce and Matrimonial Court in Ireland. The practice is to be analogous to the procedure in England.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—On Sunday evening the first of the special services which are given annually from Christmas to Easter was held within the dome area of St. Paul's Cathedral.

AN AMERICAN ICE VELOCIPEDE.—SEE "SPORTS AND PASTIMES."

FROST FAIR ON THE THAMES, BETWEEN THE TEMPLE AND LONDON BRIDGE, IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES II.—SEE "THE NATURALIST."

"The board of directors of one of the principal metropolitan banking establishments have issued a circular announcing that any of the persons in their employment in receipt of a salary under £150 per annum contracting marriage will subject himself to instant dismissal."—*Times*.

THE PANTOMIME OF THE PERIOD: "LOVE IN A COTTAGE; OR, HARLEQUIN AND CRUEL KING HARDCASH."

The Naturalist.

NATURE's transformation-scene has outshone all others this season. The ice has been for days the great attraction. Skilful pencils depict elsewhere the gay sights which the frost brings forth nowadays as well as the still livelier spectacle of a

FAIR ON THE THAMES

in the reign of Charles II. From the beginning of December, 1683, until Feb. 5, 1684, frost "congealed the river Thames to that degree that another city, as it were, was erected thereon; where, by the great number of streets and shops, with their rich furniture, it represented a great fair, with a variety of carriages, and diversions of all sorts; and near Whitehall a whole ox was roasted on the ice." (Maitland.) Evelyn, who was an eye-witness of the scene, thus describes it, Jan. 24, 1684:—"The frost continuing more and more severe, the Thames before London was still planted with boothes in formal streetes, all sorts of trades and shops furnished, and all full of commodities, even to a printing-presse, where the people and ladies took a fancy to have their names printed on the Thames; this humour tooke so universally that 'twas estimated the printer gain'd £5 a day for printing a line onely, at 6d. a name, besides what he got by ballads, &c. Coaches plied from Westminster to the Temple, and from severall other staires, to and fro, as in the streetes; sheds, sliding with skeetes, and bull-baiting, horse and coach races, puppet-plays and interludes, cookes, tipling, and other lewd places; so that it seemed to be a bacchanalian triumph, or carnival on the water." King Charles II. visited these diversions, and even had his name printed on the ice, with those of several other personages of the Royal family. Mr. Upcott possessed a specimen—a quarter of a sheet of coarse Dutch paper; within a type-border were the names of

CHARLES, KING.	KATHERINE, QUEEN.
JAMES, DUKE.	MARY, DUTCHESS.
GEORGE, PRINCE.	ANNE, PRINCESS.
HANS IN KELDER.	

London: Printed by G. Croom, on the ICE, on the River of Thames, January 31, 1684.

Feb. 6, the day after the break-up of this great frost, Charles II. died. In some curious verses, entitled "Thamasis's Advice to the Painter, from her Frigid Zone," &c., "printed by G. Croom, on the river of Thames," occurs,

To the *Print house* go,
Where *Men* the *Art of Printing* soon do know;
Where, for a *Teaster*, you may have your *Name*
Printed, hereafter for to show the same:—
And sure, in *former Ages*, ne'er was found
A *Press* to *print*, where men so oft were dround!

The principal scene of this "Blanket-Fair" was opposite the Temple Stairs, as we see in a pencil and Indian-ink sketch, supposed by Thomas Wyote, dated "Munday, February the 4th, 1683-4;" in front are various groups of figures and a line of tents; "Temple-street" stretches across the Thames. This drawing, with some prints, &c., illustrative of this frost, is in the Crowle Pennant, in the British Museum.—(See Thomson's "Chronicles of London Bridge.")

Glancing over the long roll of severe frosts which followed the one we have represented from an old print of the period, we note that the Thames was again an icy roadway in 1688-9, 1709, 1715, and on

DEC. 25, 1739,

the river "floated with rocks and shoals of ice; and when they fixed, represented a snowy field everywhere rising in masses and hills of ice and snow. Several artists made sketches; tents and printing-presses were set up, and a complete Frost Fair was again held upon the river, over which multitudes walked, though some fell victims to their rashness." It was in this fair that Doll, the pippin-woman, lost her life:—

Doll every day had walk'd these treacherous roads;
Her neck grew warp'd beneath autumnal loads
Of various fruit; she now a basket bore;
That head, alas! shall basket bear no more.
Each booth she frequent past, in quest of gain,
And boys with pleasure heard her thrilling strain.
Ah! Doll! all mortals must resign their breath,
And industry itself submit to death!
The crackling crystal yields; she sinks, she dies,—
Her head, chopt off from her lost shoulders flies;
Pippins, she cried, but death her voice confounds,
And pip, pip, pip, along the ice resounds.

Gay's "Trivia," book ii,

IN FEBRUARY, 1814,

yet another remarkable frost fair was commenced on the Thames. The street of tents, called the City-road, put forth its gay flags, inviting signs, and music and dancing. A sheep was roasted whole before sixpenny spectators, and the "Lapland mutton" sold at a shilling a slice! Printing-presses were set up, and among other records was printed the following:—

FROST FAIR.

Amidst the Arts which on the Thames appear,
To tell the wonders of this *icy* year,
Printing claims prior place, which at one view
Erects a monument of Thee and You.

Printed on the River Thames, Feb. 4, in the 54th year of the reign of King George III. Anno Domini 1814.

One of the invitations ran thus:—

"You that walk here, and do design to tell
Your children's children what this year befell,
Come buy this print, and then it will be seen
That such a year as this hath seldom been.

In the fair were swings, book-stalls, dancing in a barge, suttling-booths, playing at skittles, frying sausages, &c. The ice and snow, in upheaved masses, as a foreground to St. Paul's and the City, had a striking effect; and the scene, by moonlight, was singularly picturesque. On Feb. 5 the ice cracked, and floated away with booths, printing-presses, &c.

THE BANKERS' PANTOMIME.

"LOVE IN A COTTAGE; OR, HARLEQUIN AND CRUEL KING HARDCASH."

(See Illustration.)

CHARACTERS.

HARDCASH, ruler of the Kingdom of Banking Interest.
Lords PENNYWISE and POUNDFOOLISH, Ministers of State.
EDWIN. } Clerks with £100 a year.
MAINCHANCE. }
Sir GAILY GUSHEGRAPH, a Knight-errant, champion of distressed damsels and neglected wives, consulting oracle on all subjects and general settler-right of everything.
PUBLIC OPINION, a great Magician. Citizens of the Province of Clerkdom.
ANGELINA, betrothed of Edwin.
WIDOW WELLOFF, betrothed of Mainchance, with £200 a year.

SCENE 1. Hardcash on his throne. He issues a decree that no citizen of Clerkdom with a salary under £150 a year shall be allowed to marry. Great rage and consternation.

2. Lord Pennywise delivers, under Royal command, a course of lectures on the horrors of matrimony, in order to prove the wisdom of the King's decree.

3. Frightful perplexity of Mainchance. If he marry Widow Welloff will he be considered to have disobeyed the decree? If, on the other hand, he be allowed to keep his situation, will not his improved position stand in the way of any increase of salary?

4. Edwin and Angelina are visited by Lord Poundfoolish, and warned of the punishment that will fall upon Edwin if they marry.

5. Angelina, despairing and disconsolate, meets Sir Gaily Gushegraph. He promises to be her champion.

6. King Hardcash, having refused to withdraw his decree, is defied by Sir Gaily Gushegraph.

7. Terrific combat. The tyrant is vanquished.

8. Being made captive by Sir Gaily, he is forced to sign a treaty, binding him to give to every citizen of Clerkdom who wishes to marry £150 a year.

9. Transformation scene. All the deserving are made happy. "Bless you, my children!" by Sir Gaily. The Great Magician, Public Opinion, ascends and changes Edwin and Angelina into Harlequin and Columbine, and Lords Pennywise and Poundfoolish into Clown and Pantaloon.

The Pure Tea imported by W. H. and F. J. Horniman and Co. is recommended as combining lasting strength, delicious flavour, and real cheapness. Prices 2s. 4d., 2s. 8d., 3s., 3s. 4d. and 3s. 8d. per lb. Sold in packets by 2638 agents.—[ADVT.]

HAIR DYE.—Batchelor's Instantaneous Colombian, the best in the world. Gives a true brown. The only one that removes the evil effects of bad dyes. 4s. 6d., 7s., and 14s., of all Perfumers and Chemists.—R. Hovenden and Sons, 5, Great Marlborough-street, W., and 93 and 95, City-road.—[ADVT.]

HARMONIUMS, best quality only, full compass, £4 15s.; 5 stops, £6 12s.; 7 stops, £8 15s.; 8 stops, £9 17s. 6d.; 10 stops, £11 11s., &c. Warranted, and packed free. Price Lists of all kinds of Musical Instruments post-free. B. W. E. THOST, 263, Whitechapel-road, London.—[ADVT.]

EXCLUSIVE, VERY IMPORTANT, RARE, AND VALUABLE are the properties of Lamplough's Pyretic Saline, curing the worst headaches, sickness, skin, or biliary affections. Pleasant, palatable, and invigorating. Of all Chemists.—[ADVT.]

TO CONSUMPTIVES.—A grateful father is desirous of sending by mail, free of charge, to all who wish it, a copy of the prescription by which his daughter was restored to perfect health from confirmed consumption, after having been given up by her physicians and despaired of by her father, a well-known physician, who has now discontinued practice. Sent free.—O. P. Brown, 2, King-street, Covent-garden, London.—[ADVT.]

BEAUTIFUL HAIR.—MRS. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer or Dressing never fails to restore grey or faded hair to its youthful colour and beauty. It stops the hair from falling off; it prevents baldness; it promotes luxuriant growth; it causes the hair to grow thick and strong; it removes all dandruff; it contains neither oil nor dye. In large bottles, price six shillings. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers.—Depôt, 266, High Holborn, London.—[ADVT.]

New-Year's Amusements.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Fancy Fair—Pantomime: Gulliver—And Round of Holiday Entertainments.
COVENT GARDEN.—The Lottery Ticket—Pantomime: The Sleeping Beauty. Seven.
DRURY LANE.—Rule Britannia—Pantomime: Dragon of Wantley. Seven.
HAYMARKET. — The Poor Soldier — Fairy Comedy, The Palace of Truth—Uncle's Will—Farce. Seven.
GAIETY.—Ballet—Reappearance of Mr. Toole in A Christmas Story, and Aladdin the Second. Seven.
LYCEUM.—Italian Opera Buffa. Eight.
OLYMPIC.—Poppleton's Predicaments—Nell—New Extravaganza, Paul and Virginia. Seven.
PRINCESS'S.—A Christmas Carol—Extravaganza: Bluebeard. Seven.
ADELPHI.—New Drama: Smoke—Burlesque: The Mistletoe Bough—The Milliner's Holiday. Seven.
PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Farce: Queen Stork—Robertson's Comedy: Ours—Farce: Locked In. Half-past Seven.
NEW QUEEN'S.—Aunt Charlotte's Maid—Last Night of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Seven.
VAUDEVILLE.—Cabelling—Two Roses—Burlesque: Elizabeth. Seven.
ST. JAMES'S.—Farce: To Oblige Benson—Last Nights of Cardona's Fernande—Rosebuds Revised. Seven.
ROYALTY.—Wealth—Whittington Junior—The Rendezvous. Seven.
STRAND.—Living at Ease—Burlesque: Cœur de Lion—On and Off. Seven.
OPERA COMIQUE (230, Strand).—Blue Devils—New Drama: Pound Drowned—Nothing to Nurse. Seven.
GLOBE.—Board and Residence—Delicate Ground—The White Cat—Rely on My Discretion. Seven.
HOLBORN.—The Breach of Promise—Jezebel—The Married Bachelor. Seven.
HOLBORN AMPHITHEATRE.—Equestrian Entertainment. Monday, Saturday, and Wednesday Afternoons at Half-past Two; Every Night at Half-past Seven.
AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Sanger's Equestrian Entertainment and War Spectacle. Afternoons at Half-past Two, Evenings at Half-past Seven.
SURREY.—Pantomime: My Son Jack. Seven.
ASTLEY'S.—Pantomime: Dwelld Deadle Dumplin. Seven.
STANDARD.—Pantomime: Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross. Seven.
SADLER'S WELLS.—Pantomime: Sinbad the Sailor. Seven.
PHILHARMONIC.—Chops.—Burlesque: Prince Love. Half-past Seven.
NEW EAST LONDON.—Pantomime: Harlequin and the White Cat. Seven.
DALY'S.—Pantomime: Woman and Mischief. Seven.
ALFRED.—Pantomime: Maid and the Magpie. Seven.
VICTORIA.—Pantomime: Nimble Nip. Seven.
GRECIAN.—Pantomime: Herne the Hunter. Seven.
POLYTECHNIC.—Pictorial Lecture on the War, &c. Open from Twelve to Five and from Seven till Ten.
WAR PANORAMA, Egyptian Hall.—Every day at Half-past Two and Eight p.m.
MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, St. James's Hall. Eight.
GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, Regent-street.—Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's Entertainment. Eight; Thursday and Saturday at three.
CHRISTY MINSTRELS, St. James's Hall. Every night at Eight; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Three and Eight.
SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—Monday, Tuesday, Saturday (free), Ten a.m. till Ten p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (6d.), Ten till Five.
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, South Kensington Museum.—On Wednesdays and Saturdays from Twelve to Four between Michaelmas and Easter; from Easter till Michaelmas it is open till Five o'clock.
BRITISH MUSEUM, Great Russell-street. — Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays all the year round, except the first seven days of January, May, and September.
MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, Jermyn-street, Regent-street.—Every day, except Friday, from Ten to Four. Penny Lectures every Monday evening at Eight.
NATIONAL GALLERY, Charing-cross.—Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.
THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER—containing the House of Lords, the House of Commons, the Poets' Hall, the Great Central Hall, &c. By tickets, obtainable at the Lord Chamberlain's offices, under the Victoria Tower, every Saturday, from Ten to Four.
HAMPTON COURT PALACE.—The State apartments are open, gratis, every day, except Friday, from Ten till Six; Sundays, after Two.
WORKS OF THE OLD MASTERS, exhibited by the Royal Academy at Burlington House. Nine till Dusk.
THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS (Winter Exhibition), 5, Pall-mall East.—Ten till Five.
EXHIBITION OF PICTURES BY BRITISH AND FOREIGN ARTISTS, 120, Pall-mall.—Half-past Ten till Five o'clock.
NEW BRITISH INSTITUTION, 39, Old Bond-street.—Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings. Ten till Five.
EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES IN OIL, Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—Ten till Five. Last Day.
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, Regent's Park. Open daily.
ALHAMBRA.—Promenade Concerts. Eight.
MADAME TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION, Baker-street. Open from Ten a.m. till Ten p.m.
PALAIS ROYAL, Argyll-street, Oxford-street.

PANTOMIME

still continues first in favour with London playgoers, who look upon ballet, Beverley, and Boleno as institutions of the season. The Vokes family at Drury Lane rival the Paynes at Covent Garden in pantomimic ability, and excel them in activity, the grotesque dancing of Fred Vokes being as irresistibly droll as ever. Perhaps the harlequinade at the Garden is the brisker and more comic of the two. Next to the two great houses,

THE GAIETY

stands out pre-eminent for the tasteful splendour with which the Japanese operatic extravaganza of "Aladdin the Second" has been produced by Mr. John Hollingshead. The music by Hervé, the libretto by Mr. Alfred Thompson, the cast one of the richest in comic power, youth, and beauty on the stage, and the scenic accessories fully as excellent as

the resplendent costumes, "Aladdin the Second" is a spectacle that deserves to draw full houses for a long time to the Gaiety.

THE LYCEUM

has made another effort to keep open its doors. An Italian Opera Buffa Company hold the reins of power this time. Favourite operas, such as "L'Elisir d'Amore," have been played during the week; and a new comic opera, "Ali Baba," by Signor Bottesini, is in rehearsal.

"'TWIXT AXE AND CROWN"

replaces "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the [illegible]'s; and Mr. Phelps gives way to Mr. and [illegible]. Rousby, who are rehearsing telling parts in Mr. Tom Taylor's new play, "Joan of Arc."

"WAR."

Mr. Robertson, [illegible] "War," at the St. James's, [illegible]. The present war is [illegible] treated by the dramatist, as it is announced that Mr. John O'Connor has visited Sedan to make sketches for the scenery which is to adorn the comedy.

THE BALLAD CONCERTS

have been commenced by Mr. John Boosey, at St. James's Hall, and form as pleasant a Wednesday evening entertainment as ever.

Sports and Pastimes.

SPORTING DIARY FOR JANUARY.

FOOTBALL-MATCHES TO-DAY (SATURDAY).

At Battersea Park, Mohicans v. Eton Rovers.
At Blackheath, West Kent v. Blackheath.
At Clapham, Barnes v. Clapham Rovers.
At Croydon, Oakfield v. Crescent.
At Ealing, Belsize Park v. Ealing Wanderers.
At Hackney Downs, Clapton v. Black Rovers.
At Hampstead, The Wasps v. Forest (return).
At Hampstead, London Wykehamists v. Hampstead Heathens.
At Highbury Vale, Harlequins v. Lausanne.
At Hornsey, Flamingoes v. Hornsey.
At Merton, Novice v. Merton.
At Ormaston Park, Derby v. Wednesday (Sheffield).
At the Oval, Civil Service v. West Kent (return).
At Primrose Hill, Addison v. Belsize.
At Richmond, Clapham Rovers v. Richmond.
At Stamford Brook, The Gipsies v. Ravenscourt Park.
At Sydenham, C. C. C. v. Sydenham.
At Upton, Brixton v. Upton Park.
At Wimbledon, Marlborough Nomads v. Wimbledon Hornets.

TUESDAY, 10.—Finchley Steeplechases. South of England Club (Ashdown), Beckhampton (Open), and Little Crosby (Lancashire) Coursing Meetings.
WEDNESDAY, 11.—Finchley. Altcar Club Coursing Meeting commences.
THURSDAY, 12.—Ludham Open Coursing Meeting commences.
FRIDAY, 13.—Hadspen and Shepton Montague Coursing Meeting commences. Cambridge Term begins.
SATURDAY, 14.—Thames Hare and Hounds, five-mile steeplechase.
MONDAY, 16.—Pair oared race on the Tyne—Kelley and Renforth against Taylor and Winship, for £400.
TUESDAY, 17.—Haldon (Devon) Coursing Meeting.
[illegible] Club, Carnarvon, and Coole [illegible] Meetings commence.
[illegible] Park (Thanet) and Ardrossan (Kil-[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible], 25.—Ridgway Club Coursing Meeting commences.
[illegible]DAY, 26.—Worcester Club Coursing Meeting commences.

ICE SPORTS.

SKATING IN THE PARKS.

Pr[illegible] has [illegible] for years, vast [illegible] a tour [illegible]. At St. James's Park [illegible]. Hardly [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] up [illegible] reduc[illegible] was be[illegible] in St. James's Park presented itself. Round and round in [illegible] while [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] mongst [illegible]. Opposite the [illegible] small [illegible] skaters [illegible] considerable [illegible] latter being several who skated with an ease and elegance that put to shame many of the male performers. Amusing incidents were by no means scarce, and the various tumbles were on all sides received with loud and good-humoured laughter. One young lady, supported on each side by a gentleman, in going round one side of the swept space, ran full tilt against an inexperienced skater coming in the opposite direction, and not only floored him, but one of her supporters also, besides nearly coming to grief herself in the concussion. The slides afforded the most varied studies of humanity—boys, middle-aged and elderly men, all following one another down the slippery promenade with the utmost regularity; and it was somewhat amusing to see those with spectacles, ere venturing on a slide, carefully remove their glasses and deposit them in that pocket of their coat which would be the first to meet the ice in the event of their falling. Kensington Park showed no diminution in the number of visitors—active or passive—to the ice—albeit they were evidently movers in a higher class of society than those already alluded to.

A long walk thence to Regent's Park through streets presenting such an appearance as might be expected in a Russian city in winter—the snow carefully swept up into great heaps, and the pavement slippery with trodden-down snow, to the imminent danger of passengers—brought us to the scene of the terrible accident of 1867. Since then the ornamental water has been cleaned out and the bottom of the lake levelled to a general depth of about 4 ft., so that in all human probability no such accident can occur again. The water was thronged in all directions with pleasure-seekers, whose boisterous merriment was most exhilarating. Each tumble or misadventure was hailed with universal laughter, and a good deal of rough horseplay was also resorted to. Your correspondent gave his share of amusement when—anxiously watching the skating manœuvres of a young lady in a purple petticoat—he incautiously stepped on to the middle of an extensively patronised slide, and was on his back in an instant, with three or four costermongers, a guardsman, and half a dozen boys in glorious confusion on top of and rolling over one another. Such accidents, however, were frequent. The scene, when the park was closed at half-past four, was almost indescribable, so mixed and numerous was the throng that poured off the ice—through the snowy wilderness surrounding it—to the gates; and the labours of the keepers and other custodians of the park were neither slight nor short before the last straggler was ushered out of the inclosure.

SLEIGHING.

An impulse has been given to this exhilarating pastime since the appearance of our Illustration depicting the pleasures of sleighing in Stockholm. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales first set the fashion. It has been followed by not a few swellish charioteers, who have dashed musically along the drive in Hyde Park, their horses' bells tinkling merrily, gay rugs enlivening their fleet sleighs, and gayer ribbons fluttering from the harness. One of the most ambitious of these turn-outs is depicted on another page. Far humbler was an improvised sleigh we witnessed in the Strand. What appeared to be an inverted tea-chest was supported on the edges of two pieces of plank, and this simple vehicle, carrying a man and a lad, was drawn most quickly over the grimy snow by a spirited pony.

CHAMPION SKATING-MATCH AT WELNEY.

Welney is to the skating world in the Fens what Newmarket is to the turf world—viz., the headquarters; [illegible], however exciting the ma[illegible] elsewhere, those at Welney possess the greater [illegible]. Welney has produced the champion skater of the whole of the level of the Fens ever since the days of Larry Regester, of Southery. It is nearly [illegible] years since W. Sm[illegible] prefix "Turkey," [illegible] great race on the tid[illegible] then frozen over at Wisbeach, [illegible] "Turkey" [illegible] been allowed to reta[illegible] of the title of champion, he [illegible] the victor of many a hard-fo[illegible] he has to succumb to younger [illegible] old pluck remains, and [illegible] prescriptive right to t[illegible] matches. Welney has a g[illegible] and furnishes last and the p[illegible]. The match *par excellence* of [illegible] Welney on Tuesday week, [illegible] five or six thousand spectators [illegible] parts of the Fen district, the [illegible] their full quota. The [illegible] [illegible]ed so much interest [illegible] as on the present occasion [illegible] was only partially out [illegible] came. The locale was the [illegible] Welney, and the course was about [illegible] long. Mr. [illegible] and everything [illegible].

The championship takes brought together sixteen competitors. First prize, the title and £5; second, £2 10s.; £2 10s. divided amongst the winners of the other heats. J. Wiles, of Welney, proved champion, vanquishing T. Porter in the first round, F. Dann in the second, W. See in the third, and G. Dunham (Mason) in the final round.

GREAT MATCH AT ELY.

The most [illegible] of the matches during the [illegible] at Ely [illegible] excellent racing was witnessed by [illegible] persons. The skating took place on the Great Eastern Railway Dock, and the spectators, for the most part, kept on the banks, and were able to witness the whole of the racing. The course three times round measured just 100 yards short of two miles. The proceedings were enlivened by the music of the Cambridgeshire Militia band, which played throughout the afternoon. There was some magnificent skating, the most notable feature being the defeat of the champion of the Fens (Wiles), who was beaten in the third round by the winner; but it is only justice to him to state that he unfortunately fell, and thereby probably lost his chance. Still, he is a very promising young skater, and we opine that he will give the champion some trouble to retain his championship on his own ice should they meet, which is very probable. The following is a return of the sport:—

The Ely Champion Stakes—first prize £15 and the championship; every other winner received money prizes.

First Round.

W. See (Welney) beat W. Barber (Ely).
W. Legge (Southery) beat Martin (Downham).
Butcher (Methwold) beat Jocelyn (Ely).
Clarke (Methwold) beat Palmer (Ely).
Wiles (Welney) beat Fletcher (Soham Fen).
Hobbs (Little Downham) beat Barber (Soham Fen).
Regester (Welney) beat B. Wilson (Soham Fen).
Cross (Ely Fen) beat Harrison (Little Downham).

Second Round.

See beat Legge.	Wiles beat Hobbs.
Butcher beat Clarke.	Cross beat Regester.

Third Round.

See beat Butcher.	Cross beat Wiles.

Fourth Round.

Cross (Ely Fen) beat See (Welney), and won.

HOCKEY-MATCH ON THE ICE.

On Wednesday week a great hockey-match was played on the ice at Earith, between Bluntisham and [illegible] against Over and Swavesey. The ball was [illegible] up a little before three o'clock, and there were twenty picked men on each side, under the captaincy of Mr. C. Robinson, for Over and Swavesey, and Mr. T. P. Tebbutt for Bluntisham and Earith. There was a little too much snow on the ice, otherwise there was a famous field. From the first the play of the Bluntisham and Earith men was such that it was evident the others stood but a poor chance of coming off victorious. At the conclusion of the game the Bluntisham and Earith men had scored two goals, and the Over and Swavesey none.

A SKATING-RINK,

on the Canadian plan, has been opened at Sparrow's, opposite Knightsbridge Barracks. The water being frozen on the surface of the ground, skating may be enjoyed there without the danger of immersion.

THE ICE VELOCIPEDE.

The Americans have taken up the velocipede to such purpose that they have completely transformed it, as they do everything mechanical, into a literally swift-footed car. But then they have the advantage of great sheets of ice, and, by a happy combination of sledge and wheel, have produced a result the operation of which may be seen in our Engraving. In the frozen streets of New York this vehicle has appeared as a natural adaptation of an old principle. It has but one wheel instead of two, the hinder-wheel being replaced by a double skate-iron attached to a crossbar. The tire of the wheel itself is also fitted with frost-irons, not unlike the spikes in cricketing shoes, so that it has a hold upon the slippery surface; the mode of working is, of course, like that of the ordinary bicycle, and great speed may be attained on the lakes. Indeed, some amateurs already propose excursions to Greenland; and we wait to hear stories of wolf and bear hunts on bicycles fitted with revolver swivel-guns, to fire thirty shots a minute, either fore or aft.

DEATH AT THE DESK.—Mr. William Penn Cox, the proprietor of the *Leicester Advertiser*, *Leicester Guardian*, and [illegible] provincial papers, died suddenly, on Friday se'nnight, [illegible] writing at his desk.

BALLOONS IN WAR.—A committee has been appointed to carry out experiments on the utilisation of balloons for reconnoitring purposes.

FLORILINE!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the Fragrant Floriline on a wet toothbrush produces a delightful foam, which cleanses the teeth from all impurities, strengthens and hardens the gums, prevents tartar, and arrests the progress of decay. It gives to the teeth a peculiar and beautiful whiteness, and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from [illegible] teeth, a disorde[illegible]. The Fragrant Floriline is [illegible] and young. It i[illegible] of the [illegible]. Sold in elegant [illegible], at 2s. 6d., by all [illegible]ts and Perfumers. [illegible], Proprietor, 493, Oxford street, London.—[ADVT.]

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you [illegible] child, suffering with cutting t[illegible] and get a bottle of Mrs. W[illegible]. It will relieve the poor sufferer im[illegible]; it produces natural, qui[illegible] from pain, and the little cherub [illegible]." It has been long in use in [illegible] [illegible]ended by medical men; it is [illegible] [illegible]es the child; it softens the [illegible] wind, regulates the bowels, [illegible] for dysentery and diarrhœa, [illegible] or other causes. Price 1s. 1½d. [illegible]—[ADVT.]

[illegible]ERT DIALOGUE.—"Take any [illegible]?" "Yes, [illegible] you. What is it made of? [illegible] If I eat sausage I like to be certain that it's [illegible] genuine pork or [illegible]." "Don't be alarmed—[illegible] from Sea Moss Farine [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Order a Shilling Packet of your Grocer or Chemist. [illegible], 346, High Holborn, London.—[ADVT.]

THE FROST: SLEIGHING IN HYDE PARK.

THE FROST: A SKATING STEEPLECHASE.

A SKATE FOR LIFE.—SEE "STORIES OF TO-DAY."

Stories of To-Day.

A SKATE FOR LIFE.

IN Holland, during winter's frosts, skating is still one of the most glorious and easy modes of locomotion. In Northern Germany the ladies and gentlemen learn to skate; and at Berlin the fair *patineurs* may be seen behind framework sledges, by which they hold while they acquire confidence on the ice. The distances travelled by practised skaters, and the speed at which they go, are almost incredible; but perhaps too few of those who go so far and acquire such speed are adepts at the very intricate fancy skating acquired by many mere novices in countries where there is no opportunity for a twenty or thirty miles run. They are active, secure, and alert enough to turn, back, and eve'l leap on the skates; but they are not, perhaps, caref'l to make a clean outer edge, or to cut intricate figu on the ice. Now, our Engraving, which represents a skate for life, shows how even this apparently mere fancy accomplishment may stand a man in good stead. The event which it records occurred neither in Germany nor the wolf-lands or Europe, however, but in a wider territory than any of our Old-World forest reaches—that is to say, in the land where skating is a necessary part of education, as well as the great pastime of the iron winters, North-Western America. The story is simple enough.

THE ADVENTURER

was a keen sportsman, and had gone out for a day's shooting, in the usual way, with skates and irons, rifle, wraps, pouch, and provision-wallet. In the bright nights of the season he could return well enough, after making up his bag, and had, in fact, tightened his skate-straps, adjusted his irons, shouldered his luggage, and commenced a gentle exhilarating glide, when, not far off, he heard sounds that may well have made him quake—the hoarse yell of wolves. An exceptionally hard winter had led some of them to come nearer than usual to the confines of civilisation; and, though it was some relief to find that they only numbered five or six, and so did not form a pack, even a brace of wolves is too much for one man. There was no time to load and fire, for they were close behind—their red tongues lolling, their greenish eyes gleaming like live sparks. He was overweighted, and, knowing that he must make a desperate run for it, could not hesitate to sacrifice gun and game bag. This gave him a start; but he was still encumbered with wraps and coat. By the time he had stripped off these he was red hot, and yet, on the fierce brutes came, almost before he had struck out into a vigorous pace and distanced them again. It soon became apparent that he could not hope to get such a clear run as to put a top speed, and so leave them behind; but he was a practised skater, a "dab" at the fancy work acquired on the rinks where people skate for pastime and learn to be elegant and swanlike. His outer-edge and figure-skating saved him. On came the wolves full pelt, their hot breath reaching him just as he put on a desperate spurt, when, *whish*, he flew round in a beautiful circle, and the shaggy wretches, carried on by their own tremendous impetus, were a long way in front, while he went quietly gliding off in a contrary direction. Over and over again did he practise this manœuvre in smaller circles, till the wolves themselves, baffled, and in their rage snapping and biting at each other, began to flag, and to think that after all they were in chase of the shadow of a man—a hungry dream of human flesh. Round, and round, and round, but still with a cool head and a clenched hand, working nearer and nearer home, until at last, in the clearing of the forest, the baffled pursuers gave up, and, with a howl of rage and disappointment, fled into the thickets. It was a temptation to follow them in turn, and frighten them to death; but he had had enough of it to stiffen him for a week, and so quietly slipped back to his quarters and into bed, glad to know that he had only lost his day's sport and some of his clothes, when his excursion might have cost him so dear.

A FEMALE SAILOR.—On Saturday, as the schooner Thomas and Joseph was about leaving Great Yarmouth Harbour, it was discovered that one of the crew was a Russian female in man's clothing. It transpired that she had shipped as cabin-boy, at Wildberg, some months since, and had performed her duties satisfactorily. It is alleged that she was induced by the captain to leave with him, and that it was not until he became tired of her that her sex was disclosed. The matter is in the hands of the police. The vessel, soon after leaving the harbour, struck upon Calstor beach.

Marvels of the Nineteenth Century.

THE FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHIC POST.

THE Abbé Moigno gives the following details of the system which has so opportunely arisen to satisfy the urgent need in which Paris long stood of receiving communications from the provinces. The object in view is to dispatch from some provincial town chosen as the centre of communication with Paris 10,000 messages, consisting of from twelve to fifteen words. In the present state of things, or at least in the only state of things we are at liberty to describe, these 10,000 despatches must be carried by a pigeon; they must, therefore, be reduced, in spite of their great number, to an absolutely inappreciable weight. It is evident that the only possible solution of this problem lies in the employment of microscopic photography, and microscopic photography such as it is in the hands of that eminent artist,

M. DAGRON.

The idea of the photographic post, like that of all happy inventions, arose in several minds at once. The first, we believe, who considered the subject seriously was M. d'Alameida, Professor of Physics at the Lycée-Corneille; M. Sacon, M. Eugène Fould, and M. Charles Coislay, journalists, who all thought of the same plan, and recommended its adoption to the authorities at the Post Office. As yet attempts and projects had been the order of the day; one man only, M. Dagron, was in a position to pass from theory to practice, on any scale that might be desired. Dr. Worms fortunately asked him one day to what proportions and to what extent of surface he could reduce the photomicroscopic impression of a whole page of the *Journal Officiel*.

"To an almost invisible point; to less than a square millimetre."

"That is impossible," cried Dr. Worms.

"It is so possible," replied M. Dagron, "that I will do it under your own eyes."

Half an hour later Dr. Worms was able to show to several of the members of the Government the microscopic reduction deemed impossible. M. Dagron soon entered into direct relations with M. Rampont, Post-master-General; and fifteen days after the photographic post was decreed, and the treaty with M. Dagron was ready to receive the official signatures.

. . . . His treaty obliges him to reproduce each day, by photomicroscopic impression, 10,000 despatches of from fifteen to twenty words. How is this to be done?

In the simplest and safest manner. Divided into groups of fifty, these despatches will be first typographically printed, so as to form 200 pages, pasted on cards. These 200 pages are by a new process, a dry collodion, reduced to a point less than a millimetre square, barely visible on a thin skin of transparent collodion which supports it. Here, then, are the 10,000 despatches brought to 200 points of a millimetre square; what now remains to be done? To paste or bring together these 200 points on another thin sheet of collodion possessing the property of uncurling itself and resuming a flat surface after having been rolled into a cylinder. This sheet might, indeed, have a surface of 200 millimetres only; but the passing and bringing together of the various points would be longer and more difficult. A surface of 400 millimetres will be given to it, and, being infinitesimally thin, it will have no weight; the wind would carry it away as a winged seed of dandelion. Rolled up in the form of a cylinder it will be about as thick as a small quill, and can be easily lodged out of sight in the tail, wing, or neck of the pigeon.

Thanks to this incomparable masterpiece of a peculiarly French art, the 10,000 despatches will certainly succeed in frequently reaching beleaguered Paris. It will then be necessary to read and transcribe them, so that they may be sent as addressed. This is an affair of simple manual labour. The work of microscopic photography must be undone, what it has united must be separated, and the 200 series of fifty despatches each, which it reduced to 200 points, must be spread out and replaced in pages. This will be done either by directly reading them aloud, by the help of an ordinary microscope, to a sufficient number of transcribers, or by projecting the photographs on a screen, by means of the electrical microscope, and bringing them back to such a size that fifty copyists could transcribe them at once. We must add that the Post Office authorities are actively engaged in finding numerous and efficacious measures of introducing into Paris thousands of despatches so reduced as to have neither size nor weight.

THE MONT CENIS TUNNEL.

The completion of the Mont Cenis tunnel is a great triumph of engineering art. It is the longest tunnel, so far as we know, that has been driven from the opposite ends with the two borings meeting with precision. From the great height of the superincumbent matter over the tunnel, it was impossible to sink shafts according to the ordinary mode, so that the ventilation had to be effected from the two ends of the tunnel.

The boring-machines were put to work in 1861. The tunnel is over 13,000 yards, or about 7¾ miles in length, and is 26 ft. 3 in. wide by 19 ft. 9 in. high, which affords space for two lines of rails. The excavations were for nearly two thirds of the distance through schist, the remainder being through limestone and very hard quartz, which caused great trouble, and occupied a comparatively long period, particularly during the latter portion of the time employed.

The perforating machinery was skilfully contrived, and very beautiful in operation, being a combination of hydraulic and pneumatic power. Large reservoirs, considerably higher than the entrances to the tunnel, collected water from the streamlets and from rainfall on the Italian side. The water was sent down to a lower level by large iron pipes, supplying in the descent the power required for the boring operations; the water pressure was equal to 26 ft. perpendicular. At Fourneaux we have seen the beautifully-contrived air-compressing machines, the aerometers and receivers. The action of the water (pumped up from the arc) upon the aërometers set the compressors to work. These compressed the air so that it exercised a pressure of 96 lb. on the square inch. The compressed air worked the excavating machines, to which it was conveyed by strong 8-inch iron pipes.

The excavating-machine took out a drift 12 ft. wide by 8 ft. high; the remainder of the work was executed by blasting, or hand labour in the ordinary methods. The boring-machine was mounted upon wheels, and was forwarded upon a tramway. It had ten perforators, acted upon by two flexible tubes, the one conveying compressed air and the other water. The jumpers each made its own hole, and had a rapid to-and-fro motion, and change of angle by the action of the power applied. The jumpers only bored for blasting, and, when the rock was ready, the boring-machine was withdrawn, secured behind folding-doors, and the fuse was lighted. A blast of compressed air was then sent in to clear the smoke and sweeten the tunnel, and the miners proceeded to finish with their picks what the boring-machine had so well begun for them.

Choice Bits.

THE DESTRUCTION OF SENNACHERIB.

THE Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when summer is green,
That host with their banners, at sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when autumn hath blown,
That host, on the morrow, lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he past;
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still.

And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,
But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride;
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow and the rust on his mail;
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted, like snow, in the glance of the Lord!

BYRON.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY AND THE BATTLE OF SEDAN.—The Vice-Chancellor announces that the subject for the poem for the gold medal presented by the Chancellor (Duke of Devonshire) will be "Sedan." The poems are to be sent in on or before March 31, 1871, and not to exceed two hundred lines.

A GOOD YEAR'S WORK.—During the year which has just closed 303 lives were rescued by the life-boats of the National Institution, and twenty-one vessels were saved from destruction. At the same time rewards were granted for saving 271 lives by fishing and other boats not connected with the organisation.

NEARLY 150,000 SKATERS visited the London parks on Sunday. There were no immersions.

GENERAL TOM THUMB and his wife arrived at Madras on the 3rd ult.

MR. GEORGE WILSON, who will be remembered as the chairman of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and more recently as the president of the National Reform Union, died suddenly, on the 29th ult., while travelling upon the railway between Manchester and Liverpool. The deceased was the chairman of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

DEATH OF A CELEBRATED BELGIAN ARTIST.—We have to record the death of an eminent artist of the Dutch school of painting, Pecrus van Schendel, which occurred in Brussels on the 29th ult.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE'S NEW-YEAR'S LIVRE.—The Duc de Persigny, the Marquis de Lavalette and his son, Baron Jerome David, M. Rouher, M. de Bouville, and fifty or sixty of the principal French families now residing in this country were on Sunday received by the Empress of the French at Chiselhurst.—*Globe*.

GENERAL CHANZY, at a breakfast he gave to his friends a few days ago, said, "Gentlemen, you have beaten already the enemy several times, and you can beat him again. I intend to reach Paris, and perseverance is all that is needed to gain our end."

THE DEATH OF LORD WALSINGHAM (at the age of sixty-six) will render necessary an election for West Norfolk. In consequence of the succession of the Hon. T. De Grey to the Peerage. Mr. De Grey was first returned for the division at the general election of 1865.

The Ladies' Column.

"LE FOLLET'S" FASHIONS

FOR JANUARY.

MATERIALS OF DRESSES.

THE sudden and severe coldness of the weather has rendered necessary the adoption of the warmest possible materials, and we see more velvet, velveteen, and cloth than has been worn for many years.

The colours we mentioned in our last article are still greatly in favour, and the rich claret shade is rapidly regaining the vogue it enjoyed last winter.

Very brilliant colours, either plain or mixed, are worn for evening dress, and the more decided shades seem to be preferred to the slightly fade tints so much used in the summer. This is easily accounted for, as for trimmings or accompaniments to white dresses a more brilliant shade is required, as it is sure to be toned down by the ground-work of white.

Morning dresses are not very full in the skirt, and have flat pleats at the back of the waist; many of them are cut in one with the body as far as the seams under the arms, the back of the skirt cut separate, and pleated to the waist. When worn with a tunic, this is long and plain, pouffs and paniers being reserved entirely for more dressy occasions.

Frills and flounces are not quite so universal as they were a few weeks ago, crossway bands and rouleaux being more suitable for thick fabrics. We have seen some very pretty cloth dresses trimmed with bias folds placed perpendicularly on the skirt, headed by a band of the same stitched at each edge.

On cashmere and satin cloth dresses and costumes these folds are alternately of gros-grain silk, or silk reps, and the material of the dress. Velvet is very much worn as a garniture, either ribbon velvet or cut from the piece. The latter, of course, is handsomer. The bodies of plain dresses are generally trimmed to simulate an opening, either heart-shaped or square. Velvet revers, cuffs, and square tabs round the waist are much worn also.

Visiting and afternoon reception dresses are trimmed with fur, satin, fringes (either of chenille or silk), and feathers. For dinner and evening dress, lace of all kinds is greatly in fashion, headed by satin bands or feathers.

Colours are trimmed with black or different shades of the same. Neutral tints are also trimmed with black or nicely-assorted colours. Grey and violet or claret colour are very fashionable mixtures.

The cloth cloaks for this month are generally double-breasted. They are bound with velvet, and have velvet revers and cuffs, or are trimmed with fur in the same manner. They are sometimes tight-fitting at the back and loose in front; but the half-fitting shape is much more elegant.

The velvet casaques for visiting-dress are profusely ornamented with lace, jet, and feathers. They are handsomer than ever. They are made with body and basque over looped-up tunic skirt. We have seen one or two with the skirt and body cut in one, but they are not so becoming or so elegant as the other style.

SATIN OR VELVET PETTICOATS

are very much worn for out-of-doors wear. When made in colour, they look very elegant under black tunics. The satin petticoats are generally quilted in diamonds, with a small flounce at the edge. These are now considered more lady-like and novel than those with flounces. We have also seen waterproof tweed petticoats for very wet weather. They are made with frills or crossway bands double-stitched.

THE GIPSY BONNETS

are still very much worn. They fit so nicely to the head, without disarranging the coiffure, that they are likely to remain long in favour. We saw a very pretty one of grey felt, bound with crimson velvet. A torsade of the same velvet was arranged round the crown, with a handsome bow in front fastening down a grey feather. With the velvet a crimson faille ribbon was twisted so as to end at the sides, where it came down to form the strings, which were fastened at the left side of the chin.

We also saw a black velvet hat, with half-high crown and rather wide brim; this was flat in the front, and raised at the back and at each side. A twist of claret velvet and black gros grain ribbon round the crown, and bows of the same on the left side. A claret-coloured feather was fastened at the back, whence it fell forwards on the crown. Two scarf ends—one of velvet, the other of gros grain—fell over the back hair.

Ball, dinner, and afternoon reception dresses are made excessively long and full in the skirt. The three front breadths are still worn gored to the figure, the remainder being in handsome plaits.

BALL DRESSES.—THE SQUARE BODY TRIUMPHANT.

The fashionist of the *Journal des Modes* writes:—

"In anticipation of the approaching festive season, I promised last month a few details on evening dresses; and a visit to one of the principal French tailleurs des modes now in town will enable me, I hope, to satisfy my fair readers on that subject. Thus, silk tunics of all colours will be worn over white tulle or muslin skirts, according as occasion requires. For instance, for a small and early party a silk tunic of any colour, even black, with a low square body, will be considered sufficient dress, even if worn over a high white muslin dress. For a quadrille party the under dress may be of grenadine or tarlatan, but for a ball it must be of tulle. When the under dress is muslin, one deep flounce at the bottom is all the trimming that is required. A tarlatan or grenadine, on the contrary, has generally from five to seven narrow, pinked flounces on the skirt, whilst a tulle skirt is invariably puffed more than half-way up, with flowers sometimes scattered among the puffs, or bouillonnés, as I should rather say. The tunics are made in various ways; some are made merely like a plain skirt, being looped up to form puffs and folds by flowers or bows of ribbon, as occasion requires. I need not add that flowers are only employed for very large parties, and that ribbons are admissible at all times and in all places.

"Another dress I observed was a white grenadine skirt, with five flounces at the bottom and a pink silk tunic, tablier-shaped in front and sash ends at back, trimmed round with pink satin pipings and a handsome deep pink silk fringe. The body was square, of course, trimmed round with satin piping and fringe, and the sleeves came to the elbow, trimmed with piping and fringe, and deep white grenadine plaited frills beneath. Only a rose with spray in the hair, and a black velvet with locket round the neck. Long gloves and double bracelets—i.e., a pair of bracelets, one on each arm over the gloves.

"This revival of bracelets in pairs is daily growing in favour, and are worn with long or short sleeves, either over a tight sleeve or a long glove.

"Before I finish with evening dress, I must remind my readers that the old-fashioned low body down at the shoulders is seldom if ever seen at present. At the largest ball the low square body is preferred, and considered more dressy and *comme il faut* than its discarded rival.

"White muslin tunics, with bodies V shape, and edged with frills or lace, are still much worn over black or coloured silk skirts for family parties, and is a very easy and economical way of wearing out a soiled silk dress. With this kind of dress a sash should be worn, the same colour as the under skirt, and bows at the elbows and in the hair to match; also a ribbon with locket round the neck."

FEMALE DOCTORS.

The question of admitting female students to the wards of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, was discussed on Monday, at the election of managers for the year. At the close of a long discussion, in which Mrs. Henry Kingsley and Miss Jex Blake took part, 100 voted against the admission of ladies, and 96 in their favour. Unless a scrutiny of the votes should alter this result, a serious barrier will remain between the female students and the successful completion of their studies.

A NEW-YEAR'S WISH TO ENGLISHWOMEN.

"A French Lady," in a letter to the *Times*, draws the following moral from events now passing in France:—

"It is often said that one example is worth many sermons. Shall I be judged presumptuous if I point out one, which seems to me so striking just now that, however painful, I cannot help dwelling upon it? It is the share, the sad and large share, that French society and its recent habits of luxury, of expenses, of dress, of indulgence in every kind of extravagant dissipation, has to lay to its own door in its actual crisis of ruin, misery, and humiliation. If our *ménages* can be cited as an example to English housewives, so, alas! can other classes of our society be set up as an example—not to be followed.

"Bitter must be the feelings of many a Frenchwoman whose days of luxury and expensive habits are at an end, and whose bills of bygone splendour lie with a heavy weight on her conscience, if not on her purse. With us the evil has spread high and low. Everywhere have the examples given by the highest ladies in the land been followed but too successfully. Every year did dress become more extravagant, entertainments more costly, expenses of every kind more considerable. Lower and lower became the tone of society, its good breeding, its delicacy. More and more were *monde* and *demi-monde* associated, in newspaper accounts of fashionable doings, in scandalous gossip on racecourses, in *premières représentations*, in imitation of each other's costumes, mobilliers, and slang. Living beyond one's means became habitual—almost necessary—for everyone to keep up with, if not to go beyond, every one else. What the result of all this has been we now see in the wreck of our prosperity, in the downfall of all that seemed brightest and highest. Deeply and fearfully impressed by what my own country has incurred and is suffering, I cannot help feeling sorrowful when I see in England signs of our besetting sins appearing also. Paint and chignons, slang and vaudevilles, knowing 'Anonymas' by name, and reading doubtfully moral novels, are in themselves small offences, although not many years ago they would have appeared very heinous ones, yet they are quick and tempting conveyances on a very dangerous high road.

"I would that all Englishwomen knew how they are looked up to from abroad—what a high opinion, what honour and reverence, we foreigners have for their principles, their truthfulness, the fresh and pure innocence of their daughters, the healthy youthfulness of their lovely children. May I illustrate this by a short example which happened very near me? During the days of the émeutes of 1848 all the houses in Paris were being searched for firearms by the mob. The one I was living in contained none, as the master of the house repeatedly assured the furious and incredulous Republicans. They were going to lay violent hands on him, when his wife, an English lady, hearing the loud discussion, came forward and assured them that no arms were concealed. 'Vous êtes Anglaise; nous vous croyons. Les Anglaises disent toujours la vérité,' was the immediate answer, and the rioters quietly left.

"Now, Sir, shall I be accused of unjustified criticism if, loving and admiring your country, as these lines will prove, certain new features strike me as painful discrepancies in English life? Far be it from me to preach the contempt of all that can make life lovable and wholesomely pleasant. I love nothing better than to see a woman nice, neat, elegant, looking her best in the prettiest dress that her taste and purse can afford, or your bright fresh young girls fearlessly and perfectly sitting their horses, or adorning their houses as pretty as care, trouble, and refinement can make them.

"It is the degree beyond that which to us has proved so fatal, and that I would our example could warn you from as a small repayment for your hospitality and friendliness to us in our days of trouble.

"May Englishwomen accept this in a kindly spirit as a New-Year's wish from

"A FRENCH LADY!"

MARRIAGE.

FOX—FOX.—On Dec. 27, 1870, in London, Captain Alfred Fox, of the steam-ship Sunderland, to Miss Annette Fox, of Camden Town.

PREMONITION.

BAKER and CRISP beg to notify to their extensive connection in the Metropolis and the Provinces that their Establishment will be CLOSED on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, JAN. 5 and 6, for the purpose of unpacking and marking off an immense Stock of RICH PLAIN, BROCADED, STRIPED, AND CHECKED LYONS SILKS, MOIRE ANTIQUES, SATINS, SILK VELVETS, &c., consigned to them at less than half the cost, in consequence of the unfortunate state of affairs in France and Germany.

The very best class of goods, the richest quality of Robes, as well as the most useful description of ordinary Silks, will be offered on MONDAY, JAN. 8, and Twenty-eight following Days, at such infinitely low prices as must induce a very speedy clearance of this vast consignment.

An unusually large quantity of German Silks and Fabrics for Dresses, together with upwards of £3000 worth of Cambric Handkerchiefs, Curtains, and other Continental Manufactures, are included in this intended distribution.

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Catalogues and Price-Lists will be ready in a few days.

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BLACK SILKS.—A Large Parcel considerably under value, prices 1s. 11½d. to 8s. 9d. per yard. Z. SIMPSON and COMPANY, 63 and 99 (late 48, 49, 50, and 53), Farringdon-street. Within three minutes' walk of the Farringdon-street and Ludgate-hill Stations, City.

DO YOU WISH YOUR CHILDREN WELL DRESSED?—Boys' Knickerbocker Suits, in cloth, from 16s. 9d. Useful School Suits, from 12s. 9d. Patterns of the cloths, directions for measurement, and 41 Engravings of New Dresses, post-free. NICHOLSON'S, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

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SENSIBLE, Serviceable, Sewn Side-spring or Lace BOOTS, 10s. 6d. per pair for Gentlemen, and 6s. 6d. for Ladies. These are home-made, and warranted. At SLATER'S, 116, High Holborn (corner of Kingsgate-street), W.C.

RIMMEL'S NOVELTIES for NEW-YEAR'S GIFTS and CHRISTMAS-TREE ORNAMENTS, in immense variety, from 6d. Oracular Crackers, 3s. 6d.; Floral Crackers, 5s. 6d.; Costume Crackers, 7s. 6d.; Rose-Water Crackers, 2s. per doz.—96, Strand; 128, Regent-street; 21, Cornhill, London; and 76, King's-road, Brighton.

JOHN GOSNELL and CO.'S CHERRY TOOTH PASTE is greatly superior to any other Tooth Powder, gives the teeth a pearl-like whiteness, and protects the enamel from decay. Price 1s. 6d. per box.—Angel-passage, 32, Upper Thames-street, London.

LUXURIANT WHISKERS & MOUSTACHES. Hundreds testify to the success of FOX'S NOTED FORMULA, which forces Whiskers and Moustaches to grow heavily in six weeks on the smoothest face, without injuring the skin. A sure remedy for Baldness. 13 stamps.—Mr. Fox, Chemist, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

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